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Golden glow to light up gloom of recent times

WHILE it hasn't quite had the same fanfare and relentless build-up as four years ago, excitement is certainly growing over the return of the Olympic Games to our screens.

London 2012 appeared to exceed all expectations – not only did Great Britain perform superbly in events on track, field, water and in the velodrome, but a real sense of patriotism and togetherness between us all was created.

The England football team so often flatter to deceive and watching them is frequently more of a chore we feel a duty to endure than a treat to savour.

Likewise the recent referendum on our membership of the EU was overshadowed by 'Project Fear' on both sides, and left many of us feeling divided and some even isolated from the rest of the country.

But Britain's Olympians time and again prove a sight to behold, have us on the edge of our seats and manage to bring us all together in support.

In a climate where doping and controversy is rife, we can be proud of our athletes who have made it to the top of their profession through sheer blood, sweat and tears.

The message in 2012 was about inspiring a generation, and there is at least some evidence of that in some of the exciting young talent we have coming through the ranks, many of whom hail from Kent.

Dartford's Adam Gemili and Orpington's Dina Asher-Smith, both barely into their 20s, are undoubtedly two of the fresh faces of the team, and provide us with real hope of a medal in some of the most high-profile athletics events.

Whenever I see Jessica Ennis' tears on the podium or Steve Cram and Brendan Foster's iconic commentary over Mo Farah's long-distance double, it's impossible not to get goosebumps.

Let's remember how good we all felt four years ago and cheer on our boys and girls in Brazil to create more golden memories.

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Campaigner 'tempted' to stand against Collins

By Tom Pyman

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A PROMINENT campaigner against the Operation Stack lorry park says he has considered standing for election as local pressure on Damian Collins grows.

The Folkestone MP has come under fire in recent weeks after throwing his weight behind both the lorry park earmarked for Stanford and the planned garden town in Otterpool, despite widespread local opposition.

Matthew Webb, who is chair of Stanford Parish Council, and has led the fight against the plans, admits the thought of standing against the Conservative MP has crossed his mind, but says he would have to "make a pact with the devil" if he was elected.

A number of residents have said Mr Collins has lost their vote because of his support for large infrastructure projects in Shepway.

Cllr Webb told us: "In my more angry moments I have been tempted to stand as an independent against Collins but there is a great level of stress and you have to make a pact with the devil.



FIGHT: Stanford Parish Council's Matthew Webb admits he has considered taking on Damian Collins

"But if you get into it purely wanting to stand up for the community it will chew you up and spit you out.

"The culture of politics has changed and I'm shocked it has become so career-orientated.

"If your main reason for getting into politics is that it pays the bills, it will have an impact on how you do things.

"Our local politicians seem more interested in what's in it for them."

Cllr Webb has seen the fight go to a transport select committee but even those findings were taken with a pinch of salt, and a lorry park was given the green light.

He says the battle since the start of the year has been so draining that he doesn't feel he would be able to replicate the fight at a higher level of government.

"I have found it incredibly stressful and that's just over six months, dealing with one issue

that affects 450 people," he said.

"If you scale that up to 30,000 in a parliamentary constituency and if you actually care about those people, that's going to wear you down.

"When we have a resolution one way or the other with the lorry park, I am going to think carefully about whether I want to continue."

Mr Collins was contacted for comment but failed to return our calls.

Flood protection plans 'fall seriously short of expectations,' says MP

EARLY Environment Agency proposals which could help protect Maidstone against floods "fall seriously short of expectations" according to local MP Helen Grant.

Initial proposals for a combination of three flood storage areas alongside improvements to the Leigh Barrier – based on the Medway outside Tonbridge – were suggested by the agency, after the area was hit by flooding.

But now the proposals have faced criticism that some homes would not be properly protected.

The Conservative MP said this week: "I was hugely disappointed to learn that this approach has now been shown to fall seriously short of expectations for the communities in my constituency - particularly Yalding, Laddingford, Hunton and Collier Street.

"The Environment Agency has told me that detailed computer modelling work indicates that Leigh Barrier improvements will have very

limited benefit for the residents of Yalding, Laddingford and Collier Street. Regarding the proposed flood storage area on the Beult and Teise they also concluded "it is doubtful that they would offer significant benefit".

At a cost of £16m, the 128 properties on the Beult and the Teise could be protected, according to EA estimates.

As an alternative, Mrs Grant is now campaigning for the government to maximise the funding available to make properties resilient against floods.

Mrs Grant added: "I am now writing to the government to maximise the funding available for schemes in the Yalding area and encompass as many at-risk properties as possible, as effectively as possible. I am also working with local farmers to see what more can be done using traditional flood management approaches based upon existing drainage infrastructure."

Committee calls for diverse drivers over shortage fears

A SHORTAGE of haulage drivers in Kent can be tackled by encouraging a more diverse group of people into jobs in the industry, MPs have said.

The government's transport committee has warned of a current shortfall of up to 60,000 drivers nationwide with another 40,000 due to leave the industry by 2017.

Chair of the committee, Louise

Ellman, said: "This is not a new challenge, the road haulage sector has been short of skilled drivers for the last ten years.

"The familiar profile of the professional driver – over 45, white and male – will need to adapt.

"Let's look to female drivers, young drivers and BAME drivers, currently under-represented in the sector.

Toxic waste found as police bust £1.4m fuel launderers

FUEL laundering plants with the potential to produce three million litres of illicit fuel a year were discovered by HMRC officers this week.

The discovery led to a Gravesend business being stormed by officers of the tax administrator.

Some four tonnes of toxic waste had to be removed from the site, as well as others in Essex, when they

were discovered on Wednesday.

Seven men have been arrested in connection to the alleged fraud, which could have evaded around £1.4m in revenue.

Fuel launderers try to evade taxes by removing a government dye from red diesel, which is cheaper than regular diesel, but only intended for off-road agricultural use.



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Changes to capital rail services on the horizon

PASSENGERS travelling into the capital from Kent will be able to use the first two-thirds of the new station concourse at London Bridge from the end of August, as the station's redevelopment gathers pace.

Bank Holiday Monday on August 29 will be the first time commuters will be able to use the concourse, but as construction moves towards the remaining plat-

forms – currently used by services to and from London Cannon Street – there will be major changes to train services.

This means there will be no trains at Cannon Street main line station from Saturday, August 27, to Thursday September 1, while work is carried out on the tracks approaching it through London Bridge.



LOVE: Mr and Mrs Palmer

College couple return to wed on television

A GREENHITHE couple returned to the college where they met to get married for reality TV show *Don't Tell the Bride*.

The episode, which aired on Sky One this week, showed former North Kent College student Ryan Palmer arrange his wedding to Maria McHugh on a £14,000 budget.

Throughout the show, the groom plans the entire wedding, including the venue, entertainment, cake and dress, without the bride-to-be's input.

The college sweethearts met at the Dartford campus in 2007.

The 24-year-old was taking a sports course, when he met Mrs Palmer, 23, who was studying Early Years.

It was love at first bite for the newly-married couple, when they met in the college canteen one lunchtime.

Speaking of the college, which provided a wedding and reception venue, Mr Palmer said: "The whole experience was brilliant, to have my wedding at a place that has shaped our lives and where we first met was so special."

"North Kent College has helped me in so many ways. It was the only place I wanted to hold my wedding. When I was asked to plan my big day, this was instantly my first choice as it meant so much to me."

Troubled hospital forced to treat thousands of its patients in the corridor

By Tom Pyman

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THOUSANDS of patients in Medway are having to be treated in a hospital corridor due to a shortage of beds.

A report by the trust that owns the troubled Medway Maritime Hospital revealed that some 855 patients saw their care managed in the corridor for all or part of their stay in June this year.

Incredibly, the report said this figure was actually down by more than 19 per cent on May, and was the lowest number this year.

It comes as a result of overwhelming demand for services, but health chiefs at the hospital are keen to reiterate comments made by the secretary of state Jeremy Hunt, who said on a visit to Gillingham earlier this year it was turning a corner.

Margaret Dalziel, director of clinical operations at the hospital, said: "As is the case with all NHS Trusts, we've been faced with the need to situate patients in specially adapted



TROUBLED: Medway Maritime

corridors, with appropriate safety measures, to cope with our existing capacity demands.

"It's important to stress patients have been assessed as low risk and should always have access

to a call bell and dignity screen.

"They will also be constantly monitored by a named nurse, who will offer the same level of care and compassion that any patient elsewhere in the hospital should expect to receive.

"We have more than 100,000 patients coming through the doors every year of a department that was originally built for 45,000 people.

"Despite these challenges, we're still making positive strides.

"We're currently processing more than 50 per cent of ambulances in 15 minutes – the best performance in the entire south east region.

"We're also pressing ahead with our bold and exciting plans to redevelop and expand the department, which will more than double the size of bays currently available in our majors unit."

The new redeveloped emergency department at the hospital is planned to consist of 24 bays in majors, seven bays in resuscitation, and 10 bays in the Clinical Decisions Unit (CDU).

Demolition begins on former barracks site

DEMOLITION began this week on the site of a former army barracks in Dover, where some 500 housing units are set to be built.

DDS Demolition were contracted by the Home and Communities Agency (HCA) to clear the site for development, with demolition of all buildings on what was the Connaught Barracks due to finish by early spring 2017.

The HCA also obtained outline planning permission for the first 64 homes to be built on the site earlier this month.

Connaught Barracks is a former MoD site of 55 hectares acquired by the HCA in 2008, with a Napoleonic fort now owned by the Land Trust at its core.

Council leader Paul Watkins added: "This has been a challenging site.

"We recognised the potential of the site for quality housing in our Local Plan and its links to the wider regeneration taking place in the town centre."

Knife crime scheme rolled out in schools

THOUSANDS of teenagers are set to learn about the harsh reality of knife crime as an educational programme is set to be rolled out in secondary schools across the county.

The programme is funded by Matthew Scott, Kent's police and crime commissioner who was elected back in May.

Glenda Crittenden, a Kent mother whose 21-year-old son died after being stabbed, and Francis Osei-Appiah, an ex-gang member who spent his teens in prison, have so far visited three schools in Maidstone to educate pupils about the dangers of gang culture and carrying knives.

Following the success of these inputs, Mr Scott has signed off funding that will mean the initiative being delivered to Year 10 and 11 pupils in another 36 schools across the rest of the county.

Mr Scott said: "This hard-hitting initiative will teach young people that carrying a knife or getting involved in a gang can have a devastating effect on not only their own lives, but the lives of others too."

IPCC says seven died after police contact

A TOTAL of seven people died following Kent Police contact last year, a government watchdog has confirmed.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) published a report this week, revealing the number of deaths in such circumstances recorded across the country.

In Kent, two of these were road crashes, two were suspected suicides of people shortly after being released from custody, and three were "other" deaths following police contact which are subject to an IPCC investigation.

Speaking following the release of the figures, head of Kent's Professional Standards Department Lee Catling said: "Officers and staff have a challenging role when dealing with detained people, in some instances people are aggressive and abusive and we ensure that staff are trained to a high level.

"We proactively revisit historic lessons learned by IPCC investigations to ensure we are doing all we can to prevent tragedies."

Tributes to tragic Charlie, 12, who died on trip with scouts

By Tom Pyman

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TRIBUTES have flooded in following the death of a boy from Kent who died on a trip with his scout group to Finland.

Charlie Girling, 12, was attending Roihu 2016, the International Finnish Jamboree, with the 1st Aylesford Scouts, when he collapsed on Sunday.

The onsite medical team and paramedics from the local hospital offered immediate support but were unable to save him.

Group scout leader Krysia Keeley said: "Charlie was a lively and energetic young man and a keen member of the 1st Aylesford Scout Group and he will be sadly missed.

"He loved scouting and we loved him. Our deepest thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Charlie at this time."

Wayne Bulpitt, of the Scout Association, said: "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of this young scout during this difficult and challenging time.

"The Scout Association is in touch with all the families of the young people attending the Finnish National Jamboree from Kent, ensuring they are fully briefed and supported.

"We will be working with the Finnish Scout Movement and the relevant local au-



TRAGIC: Charlie Girling

thorities to establish the full details of this tragic incident."

Anna Munsterhjelm, chief scout of the Guides and Scouts of Finland, added: "The loss has moved thousands of people within and outside the camp.

"We are grateful, that the scout movement is a homogenous global community that has the strength to support one another even in difficult situations.

"We will create a better world by working together – in both good and bad times.

"We wish that every scout in and outside the camp will help to bear the grief of the family and friends."

A memorial service was held in the camp on Monday night.

Chatham and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch tweeted: "Incredibly sad news. My thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends."

Hundreds of British scouts from 19 different groups were at the nine-day camp, which draws over 16,000 participants

Tory switches to Ukip over 'lip service' row

A CONSERVATIVE Sevenoaks councillor has defected to Ukip, just a year after he was elected.

James Halford, one of three councillors for Swanley White Oak ward, joins as the party's second representative in Sevenoaks.

Cllr Halford claimed Conservatives paid lip service over manifesto promises to preserve the Green Belt and support grammar schools.

Turner Schools trust welcomes primaries

PRIMARY schools in Folkestone affected by the collapse of the Lilac Sky Schools Academy Trust (LSSAT) have been absorbed by a new trust.

Martello Grove and Morehall Academies will become the first in Kent to join Turner Schools, a freshly-launched trust which says its focus is entirely on schools in the county.

Campaigners march

CAMPAIGNERS opposed to development in Shepway and Ashford are set to unite and march in an act of defiance next weekend.

The Coalition March will begin in Douglas Avenue in Hythe at 11am on Saturday, August 6, before heading along the High Street and back along the ring road to finish at the High Street square to the rear of the Aldi store.

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Prison 'starting to stabilise' but inmates still feel unsafe

HMP Swaleside is "starting to stabilise," according to a prison chief, despite shocking revelations that more than two-thirds of inmates said they felt unsafe at the Sheppey jail.

Chief inspector Peter Clarke found the use of force on the site was high, and that documentation associated with its use and justification was totally inadequate.

Some 69 per cent of prisoners admitted they had felt unsafe at some point during their time at Swaleside.

He also discovered the ease prisoners found in obtaining drugs and alcohol and inspectors described the segregation unit as "filthy and poor in all respects".

However, Mr Clarke approved of



plans in place to improve the range and quality of work available at the prison and was pleased to hear of the appreciation men had for being in single cells, with the opportunity to cook their

own food in wing kitchens.

HMP Swaleside holds just over 1,100 adult men, all serving long or indeterminate sentences.

There have been four governors in the past five years.

£2m in unpaid fines over illegal migrants in HGVs

LORRY drivers carrying illegal migrants on board owe the government more than £2m in unpaid fines, MPs have revealed.

The issue of illegal stowaways is particularly prevalent in Kent, where people smugglers attempt to transport migrants from Calais across the Channel Tunnel.

Indeed only this week, one man was jailed for five years after being caught with eight Vietnamese nationals in a mini-bus.

HGV drivers caught with illegal stowaways on board their vehicles can be fined up to £2,000 for each stowaway discovered, and their employers can be similarly fined.

A Home Affairs Select Committee also revealed that in

2014/15, drivers and companies were served with more than 3,300 civil penalties, costing businesses nearly £6.5m.

However, more than £2.4m of these penalties were unpaid.

Around 40 migrants per day were discovered in Dover and surrounding areas last summer, with more than 3,600 picked up by the Home Office between July and September 2015.

It is estimated that around 40,000 attempts by migrants to enter the UK illegally at Calais, Coquelles and Dunkerque were prevented by Border Force and the French authorities in 2014/15, compared with around 18,000 in 2013/14 and around 11,000 in 2012/13.

Henderson hospitalised

SITTINGBOURNE and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson is in hospital after suffering an accident at his Eastchurch home.

The Brexit campaigner was admitted to East Grinstead Hospital in west Sussex following the accident, of which there are no further details, on Tuesday evening.

Green gong for parkland

GREENHITHE'S landmark retail and leisure complex, Bluewater, has received a prestigious award for its parkland.

The parkland, which spans some 50 acres, is among only 1,686 parks and green spaces nationwide that have received the coveted Green Flag Award.

FE College opens hotel

A UNIQUE hotel in Broadstairs owned and run by East Kent college opened its doors for the first time on Monday.

The Grade II Listed building which houses the 28-room hotel named The Yarrow after shipbuilding magnate Sir Alfred Yarrow, underwent a multi-million pound makeover.

Woman lifted from sea

A SWIMMER in distress was rescued around 300m off Folkestone's Sunny Sands on Monday night.

The woman was airlifted to Ashford's William Harvey Hospital after two RNLI lifeboats and HM Coastguard's Rescue Helicopter were launched at around 8.30pm.

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Top Three Stories



1. Jail for Essex robber

Michael Sarpong also threatened victims

2. Adult education rated

Ofsted ranked KCC's CLA as 'Good'

3. Hard shoulder drivers

Cars obstructed emergency crews on M2

The Essential Guide:



...to the Thames Crossing

Everything you need to know about plans for another Thames crossing east of Gravesend



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Greenhithe's landmark retail and leisure complex, Bluewater, has received a prestigious award for its parkland.

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Top Three Blogs



1. Don't Tell The Bride

It's always the same but we love it

2. Time to take a step back?

Tales of gambling ups and downs

3. Alcohol just an excuse

Why we need to clamp down on violence

Results of the KoS Online Poll

How many medals will Team GB win in Rio?

- 1 0 to 20 - 20%
- 2 21 to 40 - 20%
- 3 41 to 60 - 60%
- 4 More than 60 - 0%

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JAILED: Mark Stribling

Bid to smuggle migrants sunk

Mark Stribling and Robert Stilwell jailed after they tried to bring Albanian migrants into Kent

By Scott D'Arcy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PEOPLE smugglers who tried to bring Albanian immigrants into Kent before their boat broke down have been jailed for nine years.

Mark Stribling, 35, and Robert Stilwell, 33, admitted breaching immigration law by illegally attempting to help 18 migrants enter the country on a boat from France which had to be rescued in the Channel.

Stilwell, a former European and Commonwealth judo champion, and Stribling were to be paid £2,000 each to make the journey to the south of Calais and transport the migrants, who had paid £6,000 each for the crossing, Maidstone Crown Court heard.

The migrants had waded into the water before climbing on board the inflatable boat on the evening of May 28 and were rescued when it lost power one-and-a-half miles from shore.

Stribling, of Hilltop Farm, Farningham, near Swanley, was jailed for four years and eight months and Stilwell, of Stanley Close, Greenhithe, was sentenced to four years and four months in prison.

Stilwell appeared stunned by the sentence and mouthed "Tell them I love them" as he was sent down, while Stribling smirked.

The court heard that the two men had been wearing all-weather clothing and life jackets on board.

The boat lost power shortly after they set off from France and had been drifting for almost three hours, taking in water.

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk



GUILTY:
Robert Stilwell

When lifeboat crews arrived, the one female migrant was "showing signs of hypothermia", prosecutor Nina Ellin said.

It took four return trips to the HMC Valiant, a Border Force cutter ship, to remove everyone.

Ms Ellin said rescuers overheard one of the defendants – the only English speakers on board – claim they had been fishing and had rescued the migrants, while the other was said to have shouted that the boat had run out of fuel as they did so.

In interview, Ms Ellin said Stilwell told police: "Yes, they were in the water but he did not want to elaborate further on this as the officers would twist everything he said."

The husband of the woman migrant told police he had been told by another migrant that there had been threats "the boat would be punctured" with scissors if they alerted authorities, while the woman said she had been told of threats they

would be "thrown into the sea".

The pair feared for their lives, and Ms Ellin said: "They believe if they had been 10 more minutes on that boat they would have died."

The Coastguard was only alerted because of phone calls the migrants made to family members.

Both men pleaded guilty on the basis they were the boatmen and not part of the hierarchy of the smuggling operation.

In sentencing, Judge Jeremy Carey said: "This case shows the best and the worst of human characteristics.

"On the part of the rescue services, a real and conspicuous devotion to duty and at considerable risk to themselves.

"On your part, greed, recklessness and deceit and the desire to get easy money.

"In the event, there was a rescue and those who were rescued should be very grateful, as you should be to those who came to your aid."

East



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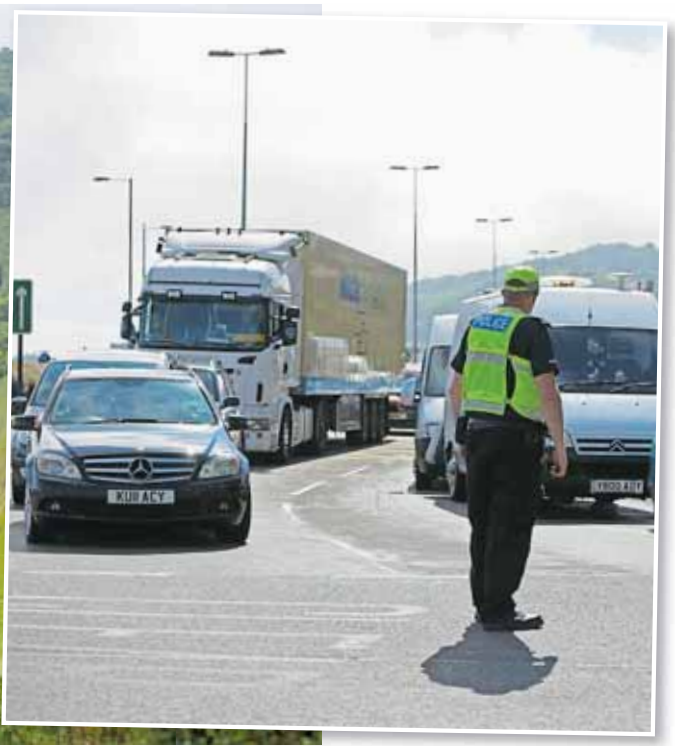
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SECURITY: Tightened security in France and a lack of staff lead to huge delays at Dover, with delays last weekend seeing travellers stuck in their vehicles in high temperatures for many hours

Traffic chaos on roads at Dover brings tempers to boiling point

With further warnings about summer traffic, reporter **Tom Pyman** asks if lessons have been learned...

THERESA May faces her first big test as prime minister in ensuring last weekend's chaos at Dover is not seen again, an MP has said.

Warnings have already been issued to holidaymakers trying to make their way across the Channel in the coming weeks to take care and allow extra time, after delays of up to 14 hours were experienced on Saturday and Sunday, as heightened security checks in light of recent terror attacks caused delays heading into France.

During the travel chaos, the north-bound A20 was temporarily closed between Dover and junction 11.

Some 3,360 bottles of water, supplied by Kent County Council, was distributed by Kent Police to frustrated drivers on Saturday, but many thought the gesture was far too little, far too late.

A lack of staffing on the part of the border authorities was widely accepted as the main cause of the disruption, but Charlie Elphicke, MP for Dover, has slammed the Department for Transport and called on his Conservative colleague in Downing Street to make sure a better plan is in place for the coming weeks.

He told KoS: "The situation was completely unacceptable.

"The Port of Dover warned the government the situation was developing - they should have been prepared but they weren't, and they owe

people stuck in queues in sweltering heat an apology.

"The Department for Transport clearly had no contingency plan whatsoever.

"They should have put a plan in place to get water and food to those queuing and they failed completely to do that until far too late in the day when tens of thousands had suffered - the response was not good enough."

A spokesperson for the Port of Dover said: "French border authorities have been operating at a heightened level of security.

"However, the French border control booths have been seriously understaffed overnight with only three booths available for tourists out of a potential seven.

"At one stage, only one French officer was available to check passengers on hundreds of coaches, resulting in each coach taking 40 minutes to process.

"The Port of Dover, which has no authority over French border operations, raised concerns over French manning levels with the UK government earlier this week and the government, in turn, raised the issue with its French counterparts.

"The port shares and appreciates the frustration of the travelling public. We are doing all we can as a responsible port operator."

Unfortunately this does not appear to be a one-off and Kent Police has issued a warning heading into August, as people continue to make their way to Europe

for the summer holidays.

A spokesperson said: "A large volume of holiday traffic is anticipated over the next few days with holiday makers making their way to Europe.

"This together with heightened security checks by the French Authorities could however mean some delays over the next few weeks."

Similarly, the AA has warned of a predicted 'Black Saturday' on August 6.

Mr Elphicke added: "We are told this could last for weeks, so we need to take back control urgently and come up with a plan. Dover must not spend all summer trapped.

"Theresa May has an excellent relationship with the French interior minister and I hope she will contact him to ensure they are doing all they can to stop this happening again.

"There needs to be sufficient investment in Dover - we've seen tens of thousands invested in Calais but we need more in our port and our town to improve it.

"This is a major test of the government and how they handle this is extremely important."

The district council backed Mr Elphicke's claims that greater investment was needed in the area.

"This weekend's chaos is a wake-up call to government to invest in the road infrastructure to Britain's major gateway with Europe," Paul Watkins, leader of the council said.

"Dover is the continent's busiest passenger port, and a vital link to trade for British businesses.

"Successive governments have failed to invest in the infrastructure that links Dover to the national and international road network.

"We have repeatedly called for solutions to Operation Stack, for the dualling of the A2 to Dover, and for an early decision on the Lower Thames crossing to provide greater resilience.

"There also needs to be substantial investment in 'smart' technology on the road network to provide real-time information on cross-Channel services, and to support a variable speed limit system for a permanent Dover Traffic Access Protocol (TAP).

"This is not just a local issue. As well as impacting local residents, the government's failure to invest in the road infrastructure to the UK's premier roll-on/roll-off port is directly impacting the national economy."

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said: "The security of our citizens is paramount, and as France acts to meet the heightened security pressures it faces we are also taking all necessary action to ensure the border between our two countries remains secure - whilst also ensuring goods and passengers move as quickly and efficiently as possible between them.

"I sympathise with everyone who has been affected by delays at the Port of Dover, and have been working with colleagues across Government to do all we can to support the French border authorities to speed up their security checks.

"Border Force officers have been

working around the clock to assist their French counterparts - and we stand ready to assist in any other way needed. Highways England has also worked all weekend - alongside Kent Police, Kent County Council and the Port of Dover - to assist motorists caught up in the delays."

The chaos came just days after the prime minister met with French president Francois Hollande in Paris where they declared there was no intention to scrap an agreement on border control between the two countries.

Some government figures warned a vote to leave the European Union would force control, and with it the migrant camp known as 'The Jungle' back to Dover from Calais.

However, both leaders have stood firm, insisting the Le Touquet deal will remain in place.

Mr Hollande said it was "useful to both our countries".

Xavier Bertrand, the centre-right president of the Hauts de France region, said the chaos in Dover showed the need for an overhaul of the agreement.

He tweeted, saying French and UK border police forces were "insufficient in Dover as in Calais" and that it would have "serious economic consequences" for the region, Hauts de France.

"Touquet accord not adapted, neither for Calais nor for Dover," he added.

"Tourists and transport companies are the first to suffer from it."



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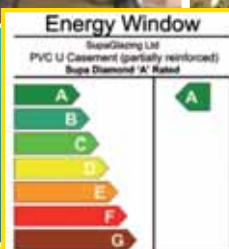
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At grassroots of politics – where parishes put residents first

Unsung and under appreciated, the county's parish councils do more than just worry about potholes, street lighting and maintaining verges they also get involved in major political issues like flooding, lorry parks and Thames crossings...

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

PARISH councillors in Kent say they will continue to fight for their local communities despite an apparent culture of 'unappreciation'.

Town and parish councils make up the foundation of a three-tier system of government in Kent, below the county council and a dozen borough and district councils.

They serve electorates ranging from small rural communities, towns and small cities and all are independently elected and funded through a council tax precept.

There are currently more than 300 such authorities across Kent with more set to be created in the coming months.

However, councillors admit it is not uncommon to discover residents have no idea who they are or the work they do.

Despite that, they are vowing to continue banging the drum for local communities even though they often run into a brick wall at higher levels of government.

Ray Evison is chairman of Kent Association of Local Councils and his own Hackington Parish Council in Canterbury.

He told KoS: "We are the grassroots level of government and fundamental to the process which goes all the way up to parliament.

"A lot of people feel that the district councillors are not representing them in the way they want.

"They are too concerned with the big scenes, it's about managing money, whereas we serve communities and neighbourhoods.

"There's a real concern that even those who support the main party in Kent are not being heard and served.

"The dissatisfaction and disconnect has been building for five or six years ever since government, advised by civil servants no doubt, decided there was too much and there needed to be a reduction, and they have done that by reducing funding."

Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark was driving the government's devolution agenda when he was communities secretary, before being switched to a new department by Theresa May, and was keen to introduce more powers for lower levels of government.

And the role of the parish councillor appears to be evolving over time.

Geraldine Brown has been working at Yalding Parish Council in Maidstone for 29 years.

Now chair of the council, she says she has seen a lot of changes over those three decades.

"There's a lot of paperwork and legislation saying what you can and can't do, it's certainly become a lot more onerous than it was," she told KoS.

"We all started off as volunteers and you did it because you wanted to but now it takes up so much time."

Despite reduced funding and perhaps an unfair image of being 'the little man' there are examples of parish council success stories in Kent.

Cllr Brown managed to get then-prime minister David Cameron down to Yalding when flooding hit the town in 2012 after relentless work raising awareness of the dire conditions in which residents had been suffering.

And residents in Shorne and its surrounding parishes campaigned vociferously against proposals for a Lower Thames Crossing east of Gravesend.

Similarly, while the government has insisted on plans for a lorry park in Stanford to be used when Operation Stack is in force, it has faced a fierce campaign of opposition, led by local parish chairman, Matthew Webb.

"Our role is to try and enhance the community for residents as much as we can," he said.

"Looking after day-to-day business and hassling district councils over potholes, street lights and maintaining verges rather than things like taxation or crime.

"It's a lot of little things but if nobody did it everyone would be jumping up and down.

"A lot of people don't have time to get involved with such activity, we're not as community-minded as we used to be.

"Often they are not accountable because while they are meant to be elected, there are not always elections because so few bother to stand.

"Prior to the lorry park, the amount of interest in parishioners was quite limited.

"My life would be simpler if we said we wanted a lorry park, but the community here didn't want it and I feel very strongly that I have to represent that as best I can.

"We have done well in terms of media coverage, getting our message out there, but it's not been easy, it's taken a lot of hard work.

"It's been an interesting experience in terms of learning what you can and can't achieve – I don't think we thought our fight would end up going to a select committee, so to get there was an impressive result from our point of view.

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CAMPAIGNERS: Stanford Parish Council chairman Matthew Webb has led the fight against a lorry park for Operation Stack

"If you are determined and conduct yourself in a reasonable way you can get your message heard, but you are still the little guy.

"When you have projects that communities oppose and object to, it can have a beneficial effect on community spirit, and it would be nice even if the lorry park goes through to continue having that."

"Good on them," Cllr Evison said. They could have said nothing and agreed to suffer but they have done what they can to get it sorted.

"Their success depends on their personality. You look at some MPs and think they are not doing anything.

"If parish councillors have a will to work

hard, be disciplined, listen and give their views, they will have a role to play."

In his fight, however, Cllr Webb says he has discovered the blasé attitude towards parish councillors extends to higher levels of government, leaving him questioning just how much of an influence his authority actually has.



"What has struck me is that as soon as you go up to district level, county level and Westminster they don't care, they are just not interested," he said.

"The amount of rubbish I have heard from David Monk [Shepway district council leader]

Continued on page 16

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Continued from page 15

and Damian Collins [Folkestone and Hythe MP] about how they understand our situation – it's just bollocks.

"They don't want to listen to the views of constituents, and it has undoubtedly had a lasting effect on how I would vote in future.

"There are people in the community who are incredibly distressed about how this may impact them and if it wasn't for the parish council standing up they would have no voice at all."

Cllr Brown added: "We are in contact with [borough and county councils] all the time and we are not slow in coming forward when something needs saying.

"Of course they can be difficult sometimes but you are working with them, not against them, and I would say most of us have a good rapport.

"You can certainly make your case, how much notice they take is another matter, but we are the voice of the community and it's far easier to phone me or another parish councillor than the local police or borough council."

One concern for local authorities of this kind is the apparent lack of interest from young people in the work done by local councillors.

Cllr Evison, however, says that is not the case in his parish.

"There are many who have been serving for more than 30 years who are there because no one else wishes to fill the role," he said.

"But at last we are getting younger people involved because for many years we have had very few and I do think there are more people taking an interest and attending parish councils.

"You don't really get people in their early 20s, but married couples who are established in the community and come to listen to what people are saying.

"Often parish councillors are not appreciated because electors don't know the successes that are being gained, but it doesn't matter how much they are appreciated as long as they are effective.



RALLY: Parish councillors have faced a battle to protect their surroundings against plans for a Lower Thames Crossing east of Gravesend (above) and flooding in Yalding (inset), but are the higher levels of government really listening to their concerns?

"A lady recently told me we had done nothing in 30 years, but that doesn't anger me, you know when you start you won't be appreciated. We joke about things said to us, we never worry."

Cllr Brown, meanwhile, says she receives a mixed reaction in Yalding.

"I don't think some people realise how much is done, that's true," she said.

"I probably spend four or five hours a day on parish business, which a lot of people probably don't realise.

"But when I have to go in to town I drive be-

cause if I walked, it would take an hour as so many people stop me – most to say thank you, but some people moan as well."

Earlier this month, five district councils in east Kent confirmed talks were ongoing over plans to merge into a 'super council'.

The proposals received the backing of the likes of Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale and Kent County Council leader Paul Carter, but Cllr Webb admits he has reservations about what it could mean for grassroots politics.

"I would imagine if you are an individual, the

small man, then the potential negative impact is going to be a greater chance that your voice will not be heard," he said.

"It's bad enough when they make decisions at district level but making them at an 'east Kent' level makes you wonder if they're going to listen.

"Maybe there could be some financial benefits and synergies because you would think there would not be duplication of roles so their council tax would go further, but in reality I don't think that will be the case because they would not want to sack that many people."

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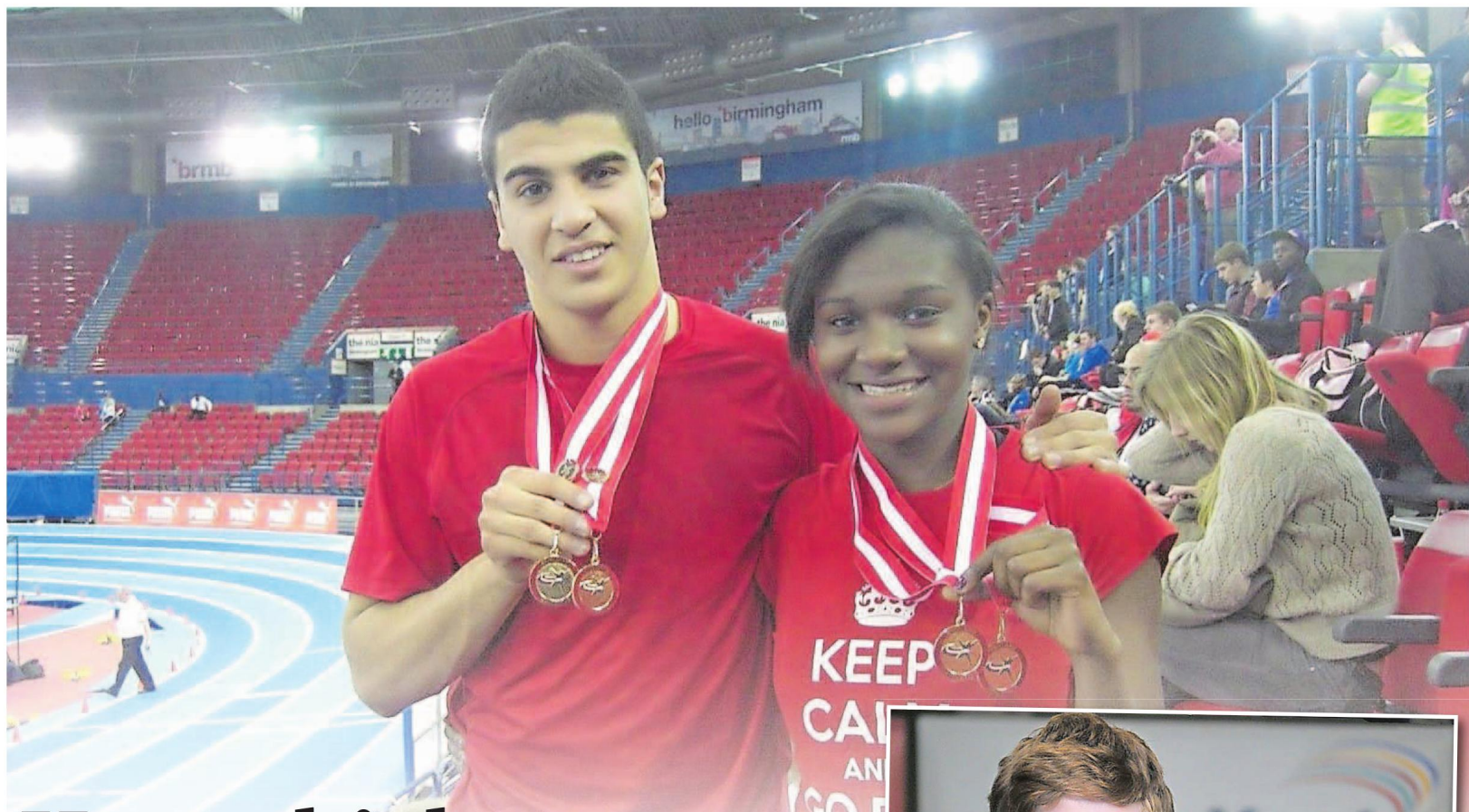
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Hopes high as sports stars head out to Rio

The county will be well represented at the Olympics with our sportsmen and women all aiming for glory in Brazil

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

NEXT Friday sees the Olympic Games return to our screens for the first time since the greatest show on earth rolled into London four years ago.

And with it comes the weight of expectation on the shoulders of some of the most promising British athletes in a generation.

Dartford's Adam Gemili and Orpington's Dina Asher-Smith are the young, fresh faces of Team GB for these Games, to contrast with the wily, experienced heads of Mo Farah and Jessica Ennis-Hill.

That's not to say they're any less likely to go for gold than the reigning Olympic champions – the Kent pair, 22 and 20 years old respectively, are well in with a shout of not just making the finals of their respective disciplines but making a real challenge for a podium place.

Both competing in the 200m sprints, there is a real buzz of excitement throughout the county's sport-

ing institutions, confident in the belief that our prodigious talents have all the ingredients necessary to bring home a medal from Rio de Janeiro.

John Blackie is a Beckenham-based coach who currently trains Asher-Smith and has worked with Gemili as well in the recent past.

"I think they can both certainly look to be consolidating their upward move at these Games," he told KoS.

"It's a big ask because there are some very good sprinters around but they have the capability, for sure."

"It's quite exciting for Kent to have two outstanding athletes like Adam and Dina and we're all very proud."

"But there's a lot of good athletes in Kent, some of whom don't get the recognition they should, but these two certainly deserve it from what they have achieved so far, particularly as they're both very nice, approachable, friendly, articulate people."

"I also think it's great that they don't ignore the fact they are part of a local club [Blackheath and Bromley]."

Having had a front row seat in

watching the development of Gemili and Asher-Smith in recent years, Mr Blackie is perhaps better placed than anyone to assess their improvement as rounded, world-class athletes.

"I do get a sense of pride myself from what they are achieving but with all athletes I coach, I just look for any kind of improvement on where they were," he said.

"Dina started as one of those who improved week-on-week, and now it's continuing year-on-year."

"You can't say with any certainty an athlete is going to be an Olympian as a youngster because you don't know how they're going to turn out until they're 13 or 14."

"Before that you could appear athletic but your body changes, so it's a bit of a guessing game."

"But I've known Dina since she was nine and she's been very fortunate in that her growth hasn't stunted her development and was showing a lot of ability from an early age."

Reaching the pinnacle of athletics is a road that has taken serious dedication and a lot of sacrifices, but Mr Blackie is hopeful the commitment shown by his prodigies

will bear fruit this summer. "Adam is certainly turning full-time and works very hard," he said.

"But Dina has to juggle university as well, which is quite a difficult thing to do."

"She trains Monday to Thursday and then some Saturdays as well depending on competitions."

"She can train up to four hours a day on each of those between work on the track and strength and conditioning, so she puts in some hours."

"The key for them both has been making sure they are peaking around the right time and I think they are."

Of course, Kent's connection to the 2016 Olympics is by no means limited to Gemili and Asher-Smith.

Joining them on the track will be Hythe hurdler Jack Green who will be looking to build on his showing in Stratford in 2012, when he reached the semi-finals.

The 24-year-old announced at the end of 2013 he was taking time out from athletics to recover from depression, but is now back and ready to challenge the world's best on the biggest stage of all.

Meanwhile, Sevenoaks' race walker Tom Bosworth will be eyeing a podium finish in his first ever Olympics this summer, having missed out on a spot at the London Games in 2012 by mere seconds.

Bosworth smashed the British record for the 20k Olympic standard that had stood for 28 years when winning the IAAF Race Walking Challenge in Slovakia.

Chatham-born trampolinist Kat Driscoll will also be flying the flag for the county in Brazil, after learning her trade at Lordswood Leisure centre and Jumpers Trampoline Club in Gillingham.

Not short on pedigree, Driscoll won a team silver and a bronze in the synchro event at the World Championships in Birmingham in 2011 before scooping gold in both events at the same tournament in Sofia two years later.

She also boasts a total of three gold, two silver and a bronze in the European Championships, bagging a gold and bronze in Spain earlier this year as she goes into her second



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Week ending July 31, 2016 19

2016 Olympics: One Week To Go

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Games, having finished ninth in the qualifying round four years ago.

In the water, the county is well represented by windsurfer Bryony Shaw from Tunbridge Wells and Ashford-born rower Tom Ransley, who won a bronze in the men's eight in 2012.

Ransley has won five medals at the World Championships, also taking a silver as part of the men's eight in 2011 and bronze in the coxless four in 2015.

There was also a gold in the coxless four at the 2015 European Championships, while the men's eight took bronze in the same tournament this year.

Meanwhile, as the only British woman to have won an Olympic wind-

surfing medal in history, Shaw plans to once again bring a medal home this summer and says she is in peak condition going into the competition.

There are a dozen hockey players hailing from the county also on the plane to Rio, with Susannah Townsend, Sam Quek, Nicola White, Shona McCallin and Maddie Hinch representing the



HIGH HOPES: Kat Driscoll (left), Bryony Shaw (above) and (right) Jack Green

women's team. On the men's team, Kent's interest will be in the performances of Ashley Jackson, Nic Catlin, Dan Fox, Iain Lewers, Barry Middleton, Sam Ward and George Pinner.

Finally, there is a Paralympic representative in the form of table tennis star Will Bayley, born in Tunbridge Wells, who is one of Great Britain's strongest medal hopes going into the Games.

The 28-year-old will be looking to

go one better than four years ago when he won silver in London, and add to his gold in the World Championships in China in 2014.

The build-up to the Rio Games has been dominated by revelations of widespread state-sponsored doping in the Russian Olympic team.

As a result, it has threatened to cast a dark cloud over the competition all the way through from the Opening Ceremony on August 5 to the grand closure on August 21.

However, sports minister and MP for Chatham and Aylesford Tracey Crouch says she hopes the doping scandal won't detract from the prospect of another thrilling fortnight of competition.

"I am looking forward to being in Rio to see our athletes, including those from Kent, perform on the world's greatest sporting stage," she told KoS.

"We've set an ambitious medal target to be the best ever away games but I know that the county and country will be behind Team GB willing them on to the podium."

The Kent Sports Trust is a not-for-profit organisation that uses sport to foster a culture of encouraging participation in sport across the county, creating positive health outcomes, and helping build communities.

CEO Steve Wolfe told us: "The Olympics is that time every four years where as a county and a nation we have the chance to showcase so many great sports and enthuse everyone to get out and be active."

"I firmly believe Team GB has a great chance to go one better than at London 2012 and come back from Rio with a record medal haul."

"With fantastic local athletes and ambassadors of Kent Sports Trust Jack Green, Kat Driscoll, and Ashley Jackson all heading to Brazil, we will hopefully have local heroes returning to Kent with medals that will inspire the next generation of sportsmen and women."

"I'm passionate about getting as many people in Kent as active as possible and the Olympics can serve as a great spark that gets everyone into a sport that they love."

"I firmly believe that there is a sport for everyone and that sport changes lives."

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Asher-Smith calls for calm ahead of debut

The 20-year-old from Orpington, who studies history when away from the track, on rewriting the record books this year

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

IT'S been a whirlwind 12 months for Orpington's Dina Asher-Smith.

This time last year few would have probably known her name, but since then she has smashed records left, right and centre.

She became the fastest British woman in history when she ran the 200m in 22.07 seconds in the World Championships in Beijing before becoming European Women's champion earlier this month.

Despite those achievements, Asher-Smith is remarkably relaxed.

"They've actually not changed so much," she told KoS.

"I still live at home, go to uni and I'm preparing for a big tournament so it's pretty similar."

It's easy to forget that the 20-year-

old is so young, and indeed so normal, studying for a degree in history at King's College London alongside her blossoming athletics career.

"Being a student as well, I do have to be really organised and make sure I meet every deadline.

"It was quite funny having to return my books to the library just a few days before going to Rio."

Asher-Smith is not letting herself get bogged down with specific targets, but wants to use the pressure on her young shoulders as positive energy, and perform as best she can.

"I think being only 20 actually alleviates quite a lot, because people want me to do well but they don't expect me to do well and that difference is key," she said.

"They say 'she's so young, she's got plenty of time' but of course you don't know what's around the corner and I could pick up a career-ending injury.

"There's a little bit of pressure in

that you need to watch how much you let the occasion take over you

"I really want to go out there and run the fastest I ever have because ultimately that's all you can do.

"People get caught up in all the fun, stay up too late, eat lots of free food and then under-perform, so just staying focussed is my aim, and when you take it all into consideration, I think that's a good goal to have."

As coach John Blackie told us, Asher-Smith has put in plenty of hours to make sure she is in the best possible shape for the Games.

"I've put in a lot of work to get here, I've probably been training for these three races in Rio since October," she said.

"When you think about it, those races add up to about a minute so to train for almost a year for 60 seconds is crazy."

Local support, she says, is an extra motivation that, Great Britain will



SPEEDSTER: Sprinter and student, Dina Asher-Smith

hope, could make that extra millisecond of difference.

"I remember at the World Juniors in Oregon they said my name on the loud speaker and there was just silence because I guess you are in someone else's home and they don't really want you to win.

"But I know that 11 or 12 hours away I'll have so much support in Bromley and Kent that it doesn't matter how quiet it is, I know it'll be loud back home.

"I had to pick up a parcel the other day so went into the shop where I used to buy lots of sweets and they were all saying 'you're doing so well'.

"You just get chatting with people you haven't seen for a while and I was joking about how I hadn't packed yet, so in a way it's not really any different, but it's really nice when people do say 'oh you're the running girl' and wish you luck.

"People genuinely want you to do well and that's an amazing feeling."

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Gemili 'out to medal' following injury hell

The Dartford sprinter says he's not going out to make up the numbers, but to challenge Usain Bolt for a podium place

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

DARTFORD sprinter Adam Gemili has insisted he is not going to Rio to make up the numbers, but is out to win a medal.

The 22-year-old has endured a tough 12 months having missed out on last summer's World Championships in Beijing through injury after winning a silver medal in the Commonwealth Games in 2014 as well as his first senior title at the European Athletics Championships two weeks later.

Now though, he says he is fighting fit, looking to make up on lost time, and ready to take on the elite at the Olympic Games.

He told KoS this week: "I suffered a really bad injury and it's taken me a while to find my flow but I always be-

lieved I'd get back to my best and it's good to be in that position now.

"I worked very hard mentally as well as physically to stay in a good place."

Gemili is set to compete in both the 200m and the 4x100m relay in Brazil – both times lining up against a certain Usain Bolt.

He admits he was "naïve" back in 2012 when he burst onto the scene but the one-time Chelsea youth footballer says he has matured in the four years since the last Games.

The youngster proved just how ready he was for the big occasion last weekend by claiming third place in the 200m at the Anniversary Games in London.

"I wasn't actually that happy with the performance," he said.

"I wanted to run a lot better but it was still a season's best which gives me confidence.

"I want to do my best but I'm going

out there to medal, definitely – if you go just to make up the numbers that's all you can do.

"I'm not at university anymore, there are no excuses, I'm committed full time to athletics.

"In London I was a bit of an unknown, I was quite naïve and didn't really know what I was doing. I just turned up and made the team but didn't realise the scale of it.

"But now I'm four years older, I've grown, matured and I know there are expectations but I don't feel any extra pressure, I love it."

"I try not to think about the occasion too much and try to treat it like any other race, because that's what it is, just with the Olympic rings on your kit – if you think about it too much, you've already lost."

Gemili has received widespread praise not just for his ability but also his attitude – remaining level-headed, polite and friendly despite his success.



GROUNDING: Dartford sprinter Adam Gemili is aiming high

He regularly returns to his home town, still races for Blackheath and Bromley and talks to aspiring athletes in schools, including Dartford Grammar which he attended as a teenager.

But he says he has his friends and family in the county to thank for helping him not get too carried away.

"It's the best feeling to have so much support all over the country but when it comes from your home it's extra special," he said.

"I'm close with my family and they help me keep my feet on the ground because ultimately it's just running around a track.

"But I love coming back home, returning to my old clubs and going into schools.

"I always smile when I get tweets from people saying they're from Dartford as well and I'm really grateful and appreciative of the support I've got not just from there but from across Kent."



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Canterbury from the air, 2005

12 years since Kelly turned Greece gold

A stroll back through time to one of Great Britain's greatest Olympic achievements, courtesy of one Hildenborough girl

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

UNDoubtedly now one of the nation's most celebrated athletes, that wasn't always the case for Kent's Kelly Holmes.

After a career dogged by injury and fear of failure, she was at risk of fading into obscurity.

But going into the Rio Games is a time not just for sports fans to look forward with optimism, but take a nostalgic journey back 12 years to when Holmes turned Athens gold.

In a quite incredible 2004 Olympics, she over-turned 100-1 odds to win both the 1,500m and 800m titles to claim a glorious double gold which would forever cement her place in the hearts of the nation – and with it, the title of the UK's most successful middle distance runner.

Born and raised in Hildenborough, where today she runs a cafe in addition to a busy calendar of media work, she kicked off her sporting career as a 12-year-old when she joined the Tonbridge Athletics Club.

She showed raw talent, and, after just one season on the track, Holmes managed to win the English Schools' 1,500 metres in 1983.

Inspired by Olympic heroes such as Steve Ovett, Holmes continued competing during her youth, but aged 18, walked away from a promising athletics career, choosing to join the Army.

Despite this, she returned to athletics part time after watching a former rival in action at the 1992 Olympics.

She first tasted high profile success at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, gaining gold in the 1,500 metres.

Now known as Dame Kelly of course, she re-joined the sport full time in 1997 after receiving funding,

setting British records for a number of track events.

She still holds the records for the 600, 800, 1,000, and 1,500 metre distances and went on to win a string of medals at major championships, including the 1,500 metres gold at the 2002 Commonwealth Games, the 800 metres bronze at the 2002 Munich European Championships and silver in the 800 metres at the 2003 World Championships.

Her double gold winning performance at the 2004 Olympics saw her retire soon after – and then receive a host of awards, the pick of them being named a Dame by the Queen.

"I think before Athens I was scared it could go well for once," she told KoS at the end of last year.

"I was free of injuries and I made a conscious decision to let my legs do the talking.

"My body was in shape, times were good, but I didn't want to do too much



ROLE MODEL: Kelly Holmes, the girl from Hildenborough who struck gold

talking. The focus at the time was all on how Paula Radcliffe was going to perform, and that was a real benefit to me as it allowed me just to keep my focus."

She returned to a whirlwind of publicity, red carpet events and a memorable homecoming parade through the streets of Tonbridge and her village, where thousands lined the streets to welcome her home.

"I thought I'd stepped into a weird dream where I was treated like a pop

star," she recalls. "People were stopping their car in the street, waving at me and leaning out of windows."

Now aged 46, she is putting her infectious energy into running Cafe 1809 – the number she wore on her vest when she triumphed on those memorable August nights in Greece.

But for Asher-Smith and the rest of Team GB's female athletes, Dame Kelly remains the ultimate role model.



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HERITAGE: Flying in his blood says Australian teenager Lachlan Smart, who flew into Biggin Hill this week, the same place his great-grandfather flew into in a Spitfire's during the war

Teenage Aussie flies into Biggin Hill enroute to new world record

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

AN AUSTRALIAN teenager who has set off on an epic solo flight around the world touched down at Bromley's Biggin Hill Airport this week.

High-flying 18-year-old Lachlan Smart hopes to make the Guinness Book of Records as the youngest person in history to circumnavigate the globe solo in a single engine aircraft.

The youngster, who first set foot in a cockpit at the age of just 14, was particularly pleased to visit Biggin Hill due to his family's links to the area.

He told KoS: "In World War Two, my great-grandfather, Ray Bavington, stopped here in a Spitfire, so it is very special.

"I have been to the UK twice before, but this is my longest stop. I have got ten days; I will be getting some major

servicing done at the airport and spending some time with my family."

Mr Smart has aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins who live to the south-west of London, and his father has joined him in the UK from Australia.

The teenager's journey, which will take approximately 70 days to complete, has seen him take in exotic destinations such as Fiji, Christmas Island, Hawaii and California.

He has already become the youngest person ever to fly solo over the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and hopes that his record attempt will inspire other young people to realise their ambitions.

"The main reason why I'm doing this isn't because I like the idea of a world record," he explained.

"The main reason is that I wanted to send a message to the younger generation about setting and realising goals.

"I noticed my peers saying 'if only

we could do this in the future'. We are missing motivation and I wanted to motivate people to achieve their dreams."

Hailing from Australia's Sunshine Coast, Mr Smart lives with his mother in the town of Nambour.

Recalling the time he revealed his ambition to his parents, he said: "I think they thought I was crazy. I remember the evening I told my mother and she said 'ok, that's great'.

"Months later I had my first sponsor on board and had started planning, and mum and dad said 'are you really serious?', and they jumped on board and it grew from there.

"Aviation is definitely in my heritage, but since World War II I haven't had anyone in the family involved.

"It is something I have always been interested in since I stepped into a cockpit at 14.

"That was a gift from my father for my birthday. I thought it was the greatest thing in the world.

I have managed to get funding and I started training at about 15-and-a-half; I got my licence at 16-and-a-half and my instrument rating at 17."

Mr Smart's judgement was tested when he had to delay his flight from Hawaii to California due to strong winds caused by Hurricane Blas.

"I knew it would be challenging and there have been challenges along the way," he said. "I was not going to do this unless I could do it safely.

"We have always made sure safety comes first.

"Coming from American Samoa to Christmas Island there were some huge storms and I had some problems getting everything working properly, but I did get through it.

"It doesn't feel as amazing when you are nine hours into a 14-hour journey, but I don't get lonely in the aeroplane – I am usually too busy making sure everything is running smoothly."

The youngster says aviation is

"very addictive" but added that he would like to study business and is planning to apply to universities when he returns home.

In the short, term, however, his plans are more modest.

"When I get back, I think a break would be very nice," he said. "It has been very intense during the past few years, planning for weeks and weekends.

"When I stepped into the aeroplane on the first day, it almost felt like I was completing it. I thought, 'I can actually begin the real journey now'."

Mr Smart's journey will resume on August 6 when he flies to Cannes, France, before heading to Crete, Egypt and several destinations across Asia on the home stretch.

"I am just an average, normal teenager and I planned out this trip over two-and-a-half years," he said.

"It was just my dream – and if I can do it, imagine what a whole generation could do."



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To celebrate the life of the last remaining fighter pilot, the modern Czech Air Force flew in General Emil Bocek to Biggin Hill Airport.

Among the travelling party was the commander of the Czech Air Force, Brigadier General Libor Stefanik.

The 93-year-old veteran flew Spitfires with the Royal Air Force and was invited to fly once again in his beloved Supermarine Spitfire.

Ahead of the visit, General Bocek described the flight as 'his dream'.

During the visit, General Bocek went St George's Chapel, which is dedicated to the battle.

Once inside the chapel, the Cardinal & Archbishop of Prague, Dominik Duka, whose father fought in the Second World War, presented a special version of Infant Jesus of Prague for the chapel in memory of the Second

World War Czech pilots and crews.

General Bocek and the accompanying group then went to Biggin Hill's Heritage Hangar, where the 93-year-old climbed inside a two-seater Spitfire and was flown around the area.

He then climbed inside one of the two-seat Spitfire's at the airport.

The grandchildren of Squadron Leader Tony Liskutin, a squadron commander with No. 312 (Czech) Squadron were also invited along.

Following the visit, the Czech party travelled to Northolt where they were due to visit the Polish war memorial.

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Rocking out at Ramblin' Man Fair

The county town's Mote Park played host at the weekend to bands including Whitesnake, Thin Lizzy, Thunder and Black Stone Cherry as thousands of classic rock fans of all ages looked on...

By Tim Miles

tmi.miles@archant.co.uk

MAIDSTONE's Mote Park was buzzing at the weekend as the stunning natural bowl played host to thousands of rock fans.

Rockers of all ages and persuasions – prog, melodic, blues and regular full-strength classic rock – descended on the county town for the second Ramblin' Man Fair with more than fifty bands playing on four stages across Saturday and Sunday.

The self-styled 'grown up' festival boasted not only big name acts – Whitesnake, Thin Lizzy, Uriah Heep, Airbourne, Thunder and Black Stone Cherry to name but a few – but also a beer festival, a wide choice of foods, stalls and even a 'wall of death' motorcycle ride... which judging by the lack of blue lights and sirens must have been reasonably safe.

Ramblin' Man is organised by Spirit Of Rock, who claim the event has 'a unique philosophy' and is 'a rock festival designed for rock fans by rock fans'. And they seem to be onto a winning formula, from what I could see.

Blessed with sunshine, the two-day celebration was certainly popular as those in sandals and flip-flops stood side-by-side with those in biker and cowboy boots. Additionally there was plenty of room away from the stages for those seeking a spot to sunbathe and those seeking shade.

My personal high point was Thin Lizzy taking to the stage with Jailbreak followed closely by most of the acts on the country stage!

As the skies darkened on Saturday night and headliners Whitesnake slithered through their hits, David Coverdale told us 'there ain't no love in the heart of the city' – how wrong he was... we all loved it!



ROCKING: Crowds at the main rock stage



EUROPE:

Singer Joey Tempest (below) gets the crowd going and (right) Thin Lizzy's Ricky Warwick was live and dangerous



POPULAR: Whitesnake's David Coverdale (top) on Saturday night
ALL PICTURES BY CHRIS WHITE

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Welcome

IF YOU live in and around Canterbury, it is the easiest thing in the world to focus on the negative: to think of the traffic, of parking or simply the crowds.

But it is sometimes worth just stepping back and remembering why that is an issue – and acknowledging that it is simply as a result of this remarkable city's success.

The crowds come because it is a city of rare beauty; drawn by the majesty of the cathedral, and impelled to stay by the vibrancy of all that surrounds it.

The bustling shops, the acclaimed restaurants, the awe-inspiring architecture, the thrilling sporting arenas or the cultural clout of its theatres

and performance spaces. It is a melting pot of young and old, inspiration and aspiration.

The universities, which attract thousands of students each and every year, provide an essential vitality to the city as well as pumping millions of pounds into its local economy and luring thousands of more visitors each and every year.

The result is a unique atmosphere and an intoxicating blend which continues to pull in visitors and make Canterbury a place so many still want to come and live and work in.

And that is what this special guide, brought to you by the publishers of Kent on Sunday newspaper, hopes to highlight; to remind you of why this

is such as special place.

But perhaps the secret to Canterbury's success is that it is not a place which wants to rest on its laurels.

Development to enhance the local population – not just the tourist experience – is at the forefront.

There are plans for a major multiplex plus restaurants and shops at Kingsmead, while the coming years will also see the birth of a new secondary school on the site of what was once Chaucer Technology School.

Theatres have been rebuilt, shopping areas spruced up and a desire to build on its historic base to create a dynamic future is at the heart of everything going forward.

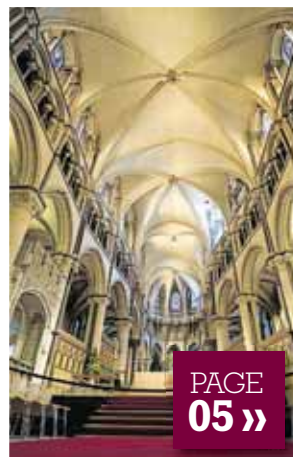
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Hit the tourist trail for fresh city view

TOURISM

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THINK tourism and it's easy to assume it is only something the visitor can indulge in.

But whether you're planning a staycation this year or simply want to open your eyes to the city which you often take for granted if you're lucky enough to live or work here, then why not open your eyes to the facilities on offer right here?

After all, we live in a city renowned throughout the world for its place in history and its influence.

What's more, so many original buildings or archaeological finds are still here for you to enjoy.

Want to learn about what it was like in the city during the Roman occupation? Then why not visit the underground Roman Museum, built around the remains of a Roman town house with mosaics

preserved where excavated. It allows visitors to journey back through the centuries, as does the medieval Westgate Towers Museum.

Ever pondered just what the Freemasons are and what they do? Find out if those Dan Brown books were based in fact at the Kent Museum of Freemasonry in St Peter's Place.

Did you grow up with Bagpuss? Or perhaps Rupert the Bear was your favourite?

Children's TV creators Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin created the likes of Bagpuss, Ivor the Engine and the Clangers in Blean – just outside the city – and the Canterbury Heritage Museum in Stour Street gives you the chance to see the original saggy old cloth cat which featured in the series so often referred to as the best loved of all time.

Meanwhile, Rupert creator Mary Tourtel lived in the city and there are plenty of attractions straight from Nutwood on display

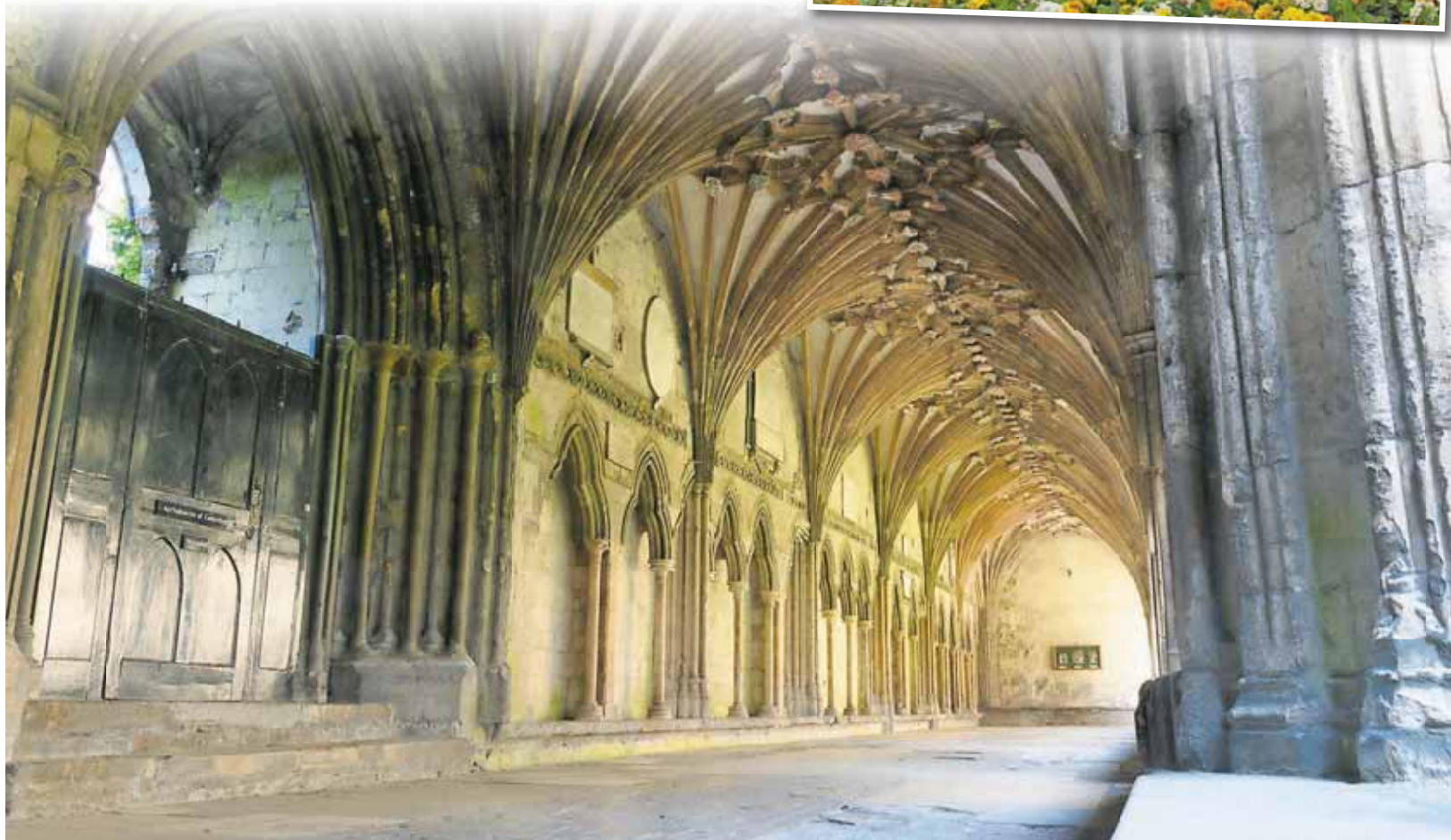
too. If you believe in ghosts there are regular ghost walks taking you round the streets recalling the alleged hauntings which have taken place.

Or if you're after something a little more relaxed, what about bringing a touch of Venice to your day out by being punted along the River Stour – giving you the chance to view the city in a whole new way.

For the more adventurous, there are even helicopter rides you can book which will take you into the skies and give you a memorable view of the city you thought you knew so well.

Of course, the cathedral hogs the limelight – and its majesty looming over the city landscape is hard to ignore. But have you explored everything it has to offer? There are organised walks around the building and its surroundings, as well as the chance to grab an audio tour.

You may find you discover something you never knew.





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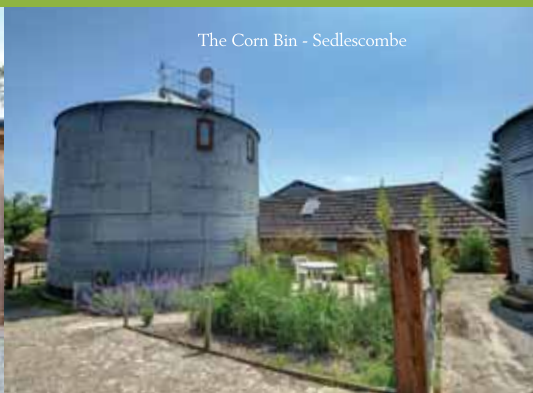
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Shopping in the best of both worlds

RETAIL

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

WHEN high streets felt the squeeze of the economic recession, Canterbury was far from immune from the damage it caused.

Yet unlike so many other town centres which continue to be dogged with empty shop fronts and lifeless atmospheres, the city has bounced back.

And it did so by a combination of encouraging independent retailers

– particularly in certain key areas – and by still remaining attractive to the big brands who know that Canterbury's tourism strength ensures its vitality.

In addition, its blend of cultural offerings and cafe culture – topped off with a walled city centre which limits dramatically the number of cars in and around a primarily pedestrianised area – keeps the crowds topped up.

Today, the city is as vibrant as ever before when it comes to its retail offering.

There's the clout of Whitefriars, a sophisticated purpose-built, mod-

ern shopping area which boasts big names and a pleasant shopping environment.

Off that is the Royal Star Arcade, a covered mall which offers boutiques and big chains.

The jewel in the crown is the main high street area – a pedestrianised stretch which offers the shopper a vast array of destination stores, including Nasons, an independent family-owned store that traces its history back to 1929.

But Canterbury's depth and breadth is also revealed by taking the narrow historic side streets.

Areas, for example, such as the King's Mile which has seen the traders unite to promote the area and make it one of the city's most interesting areas to peruse.

Dubbed the 'independent quarter' it includes the historic Sun Street, Palace Street, Guildhall Street, Orange Street and Northgate.

It may be just a short stroll from the main thoroughfare of the city centre, but it offers everything from handcrafted jewellery, arts, crafts, gifts, clothing and plenty of places to unwind too with pubs and restaurants.

It is the ability to make a full day of it which makes the city such a draw. Take in the historic surroundings, the vast array of shops and retailers from the traditional to the most modern, and also to then provide the ability to take the weight off your feet



by sipping a cool drink in a whole host of inviting hostelrys or a tasty meal in almost any food you care to mention – from Moroccan to sushi, fish to fast food – there really is something for everyone.

And while many town and city centres have seen the lifeblood sucked from them by out-of-town developments, Canterbury is one of the few towns which has combined the two. From expanding areas in

the likes of Wincheap and Sturry Road, the city knows the need to deliver the big hitters where the need for parking close to the store is a practical necessity. So there are major electronic, furniture and carpet stores perched on the outskirts of the city to supplement the city centre outlets.

Explore the city and it delivers a worthy reward for even the most demanding shopper.





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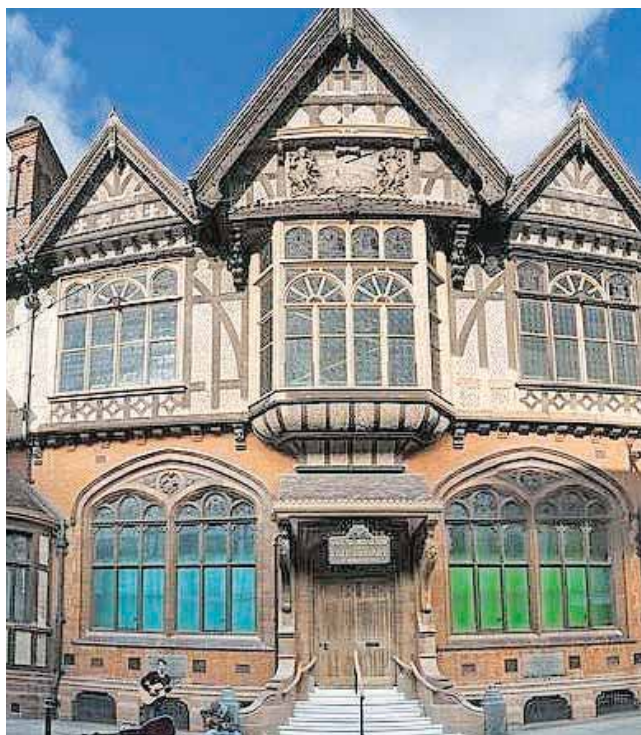
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CROWDS: Beaneys, above, the Gulbenkian and Spitfire Ground, below, which showcases some of the biggest performers with outdoor shows



Entertainment which will dazzle the senses

CULTURE

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

UNIQUE in Kent, Canterbury's offering is built around its tourism industry, historic roots and its university community.

The combination is a blend of cutting edge new talents and trends with a backbone of classic productions and performers.

The combined strengths of the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church (CCC) ensure there is a regular calendar of events ranging from political discussion to theatre, cinema, dance and art.

From the melodic sounds of buskers performing in the city centre, there's a vast array of entertainment to be enjoyed.

The Marlowe Theatre is perhaps the stand-out attraction, a glass-fronted modern facility with plush main arena and additional performance spaces for smaller shows.

Since its renovation in 2011 it has won a host of national theatre industry awards and pulls in big crowds with a diet of West End touring productions, dance, music and comedy.

Perched on the hill overlooking the city, and set amid the University of Kent complex is the Gulbenkian, a theatre with a broad range of smaller productions not to mention cinema too which regularly includes screening from the National Theatre, Royal Opera House, independent and art-house movies.

East

Meanwhile the Curzon on Westgate Hall Road brings to Canterbury its renowned programme of independent films from all over the world, as well as a range of exciting events including live opera, ballet, theatre and art broadcasts.

The Odeon cinema on the New Dover Road provides all the latest releases and there's hopes of a major redevelopment of the Kingsmead area bringing a modern multiplex too.

There are also a range of museums and galleries on offer to showcase the city's culture further.

The Sidney Cooper Gallery is made up of a dynamic mix of exhibitions and events, showcasing works by in-

ternational artists and graduating students from CCC, while the well-established Lilford Gallery is renowned for exhibiting contemporary fine art.

The newly-opened Conquest House Gallery also boasts a collection of unique pieces.

The Beaneys House of Art and Knowledge provides state-of-the-art special and permanent exhibition galleries, a brand new library, learning facilities and a varied programme of events for all ages.

Not to mention big open air shows by performers such as Simply Red, Madness, Elton John and, in August, Bryan Adams, at the Spitfire Ground in Old Dover Road.



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TASTY: The Goods Shed is a hugely popular market, food hall and restaurant



A feast of the finest food and drink

EATING

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

GIVEN its location deep in the Garden of England, it is perhaps little wonder that Canterbury has become the destination of choice for those in pursuit of the best food and drink in the region.

Firstly, the atmosphere of Canterbury and the proximity of the main outlets means heading into the city

for something to delight the tastebuds.

But selecting locally produced delicacies doesn't always mean a jaunt to one of the numerous establishments in the city.

The Goods Shed market and food hall has become a huge hit since it opened in, as the name suggests, a former good shed next to Canterbury West station.

Described by one national critic as if you'd "died and gone to gastronomic heaven" the first treat to the

senses is visual, with benches heavy under the weight of fine Kentish fayre.

From cheese to sparkling wines, local meats to soft fruits, buying something here will ensure a feast at home. In addition, there's a restaurant too which allows you to dine while watching the market in action.

But that is surely only the tip of the iceberg.

Courtesy of its cosmopolitan atmosphere, Canterbury's menus hail

from every corner of the world. From Moroccan to Mexican, Cantonese to Cuban, as clichéd as it may be, there really is something for every taste.

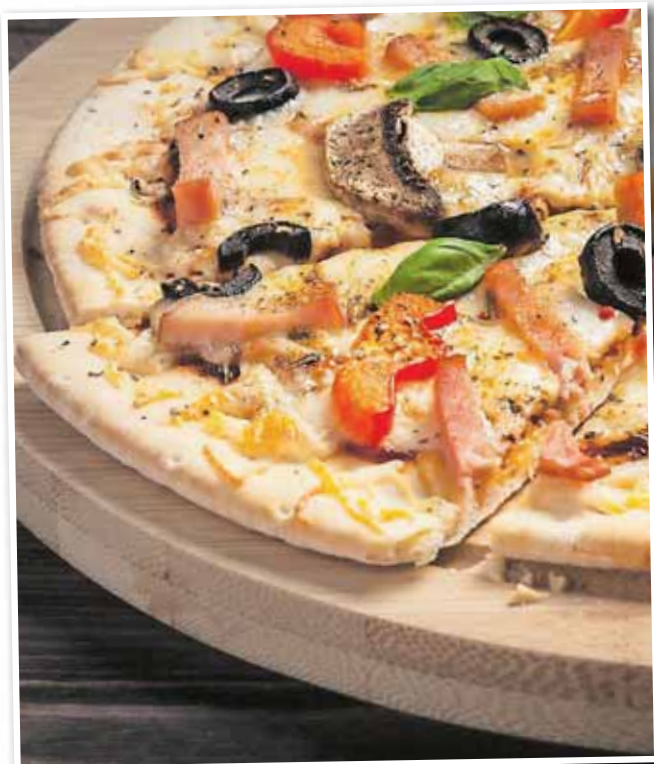
With fresh fish caught just down the road, Chapman's Seafood Bar has become a firm favourite, while if British is your preference then Deesons in the centre of the city consistently wins fans. Pinocchio's Italian offers a warm welcome and great food, while the award-winning Ambrette fuses British with Indian influences to create a

spellbinding range of dishes.

And there's so much to choose. There's sushi at Mister Miyagi's or Mediterranean at Cafe du Soleil on the riverside. Or select plenty of small delicious dishes at Salt.

However big your appetite, however refined your tastebuds, Canterbury, as a whole, is a gastronomic heaven.

And if all you're after is a snack, well there's plenty of fastfood outlets too – after all, a family trip isn't complete without fish and chips, is it?






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HISTORY

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CHARTING Canterbury's history begins in the Iron Age, when celtic settlements saw the outline of a town first form – and however dry you think history may be, the resulting city's is quite remarkable.

From its time as a major settlement under the Roman occupation – during which time a forum took centre stage, acting as the hub of the city.

Yet when the Romans left in around 400AD Canterbury was thought to have become abandoned – only to become the centre, nearly 200 years later – of

Christian life when the Pope sent who would later become St Augustine to create a settlement and spread the word of God.

The remains of the abbey he created in 598AD can still be seen today – and form part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, which also encompasses the cathedral and St Martin's Church – believed to be the oldest church in the English-speaking world.

Around the same time what would become the cathedral we know today was founded and Augustine himself the first archbishop.

Over the years, the city would continue to grow.

When, in the 12th century archbishop Thomas Becket was killed at the cathedral it would be-

come a popular pilgrimage route, considered the most sacred destination after Rome, attracting regular visitors from across Europe.

By the 16th century and the creation of the Church of England, Canterbury's position was cemented.

Since then it has grown beyond the city walls once built to defend it, yet it has retained its medieval character.

More modern day history saw it extensively bombed during the Second World War – yet the cathedral escaped without serious damage.

Now one of the great cities of Europe, around one million people a year come to visit just the cathedral.



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MAGNIFICENT: There are few views in sport more glorious than watching Kent in action at the Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence. Inset, top class hockey action at Polo Farm. Pictures: Ady Kerry

Facilities which all are worthy of gold glory

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

THINK of Canterbury and sport and the chances are you'll be thinking of sunny, lazy days watching the cricket amid the picturesque surrounds of the Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence – home of Kent County Cricket Club.

But to assume the world famous ground is the beginning and the end of the city's sporting provision would be a mistake.

The state-of-the-art facilities at Polo Farm are home to, among others, the nationally high-flying men and women's hockey teams.

The club fields 10 men's sides each week throughout the season, ranging from a development squad, with a mix of youngsters and veterans, all the way through to its first XI who play in the England Hockey Premier Division.

The club regularly provides players for Great Britain's Olympic sides and among its most notable alumni is gold medallist at Seoul 1988, Sean Kerly.

The ladies team, which recently secured a ranking of the fifth best team in Europe, boasts the likes of Great Britain's double Olympian Mel Clewlow and South African triple Olympian Jen Wilson, as well as Grace Baldson, who was with England juniors in the recent World Cup.

Located on Littlebourne Road, the venue's history stems back to the spring of 1977, when Bill and Dick Laslett of Canterbury Hockey Club purchased an overgrown orchard at Polo Farm.

Over the subsequent decades, the city has watched its facilities expand and improve to become a premier sporting venue and centre of excellence.

Its facilities have allowed the club to host the World Veterans Hockey Cup and international training matches before the 2012 Olympics in recent years.

With Andy Murray claiming his second Wimbledon title earlier this month, tennis is once again high on the sporting agenda, and the development of the Murrays and Laura Robsons of the future is enhanced in Canterbury by six floodlit artificial clay tennis courts, two summer

grass tennis courts and a three-court indoor tennis centre at Polo Farm

A number of tennis clubs utilise the facilities, recognising it as a home where prospects can hone their skills on a range of surfaces, shaping them into well-rounded players.

Other facilities available include a floodlit artificial grass multi-sport pitch and two croquet lawns.

Outside of hockey, Canterbury has two more Olympic hopefuls, in the form of fencer Nick Beaumont, who attended Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and has also worked at Canterbury Academy, and 17-year-old alpine skier Millie Knight, who became Britain's youngest ever Winter Paralympian when she and her guide Jen Kehoe competed in Sochi in 2014.

There are plenty of fitness centres across the city, with traditionally one of the most popular being the council-owned leisure centre at Kingsmead.

It boasts three pools, dance and fitness studios with a range of classes and a full size sports hall which can play host to everything from bad-



minton, to five-a-side football to trampolining.

The University of Kent offers a range of facilities to the public when signing up for membership, including a fitness suite, strength and conditioning training area, squash courts and artificial and grass pitches.

Similarly, there is an athletics track, beach volleyball court, indoor tennis centre, gym and fitness studio at the Canterbury High School.

Canterbury Rugby Club play in Na-

tional League 2 South - English rugby's fourth tier, and are regular winners of the Kent Cup, having lifted the trophy on five occasions since 2005.

But of course the country cricket club remains the jewel in the crown. Kent play home games in all forms of the game, including the hugely popular fast-paced T20 competition which regularly pulls in thousands of spectators and is often broadcast live on Sky TV.

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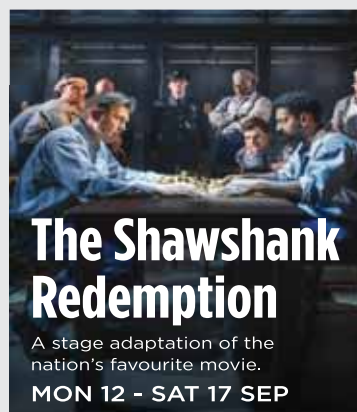
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FRENCH: Rebuilt after being attacked by six British ships, L'Invincible changed naval warfare and (right) relics retrieved from HMS Invincible



PICTURE: Adrian Brooks/Imagewise

'Invincible' lives up to her name as warship's relics are uncovered

By Chris Murphy

chris.murphy@archant.co.uk

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Medway this week recovered more of the wreckage of an 18th century warship, recognised as one of the most important ever built.

The British government is spending some £2m raising the Invincible, which went down off the Solent in more than 250 years ago.

In recent weeks there have been several important finds from the wreck, some of which are being kept at Chatham's Historic Dockyard, overseen by collections manager Alex Patterson.

This original of seven Invincibles started life as a French vessel, and forever changed the way naval battles were fought.

There were 74 guns on board her giving devastating fire power capable of quickly sinking enemy ships careless enough to get too close.

But she was overpowered during the First Battle of Cape Finisterre on May 14, 1747, during the War of the Austrian Succession.

The French L'Invincible had been escorting merchant ships as 16 British ships spotted her.

Six of them engaged and the French crew was all but wiped out before the French Commander, Saint-Georges, handed his sword to Admiral George Anson.

The British captured her along with a dozen other French warships.

What was left of the Invincible was studied, rebuilt, and copied by the British creating a new and devastating class of war ship, effectively changing history.

In February 1758, the original Invincible ran aground at The Solent as

she made her way to help an attempt to take the French fort at Louisbourg. She was overcome by the sea three days later, time which allowed the crew to be rescued.

It was another 221 years before a fisherman snagged his nets on her pulling up some of the timbers.

A year later, the wreck was protected by the government as a Historic Shipwreck under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 to prevent further damage, and in 1996 was deemed to be 'at risk'.

Mr Patterson said he would love to see what remained of her to be brought to Chatham, but is aware what lays under the waves no longer resembles a ship.

He told us: "In the 80s, dives on the wreck produced timbers and other materials that reflected life on board were recovered and brought to Chatham.

"We now hold the representative collection on the Invincible.

"The first ships to be built based on the lines taken from the Invincible were built at Chatham, so we have a great history with this ship.

"At that time, Chatham was the lead shipbuilder for the navy, so it makes sense to bring what is left of the Invincible back here – she was also the model for the new Valiant.

"The British at the time realised how important she was, and so her name was not changed, and was just anglicised to Invincible.

"She helped Britain capture command of the oceans by the end of the 18th century."

After the recovery and restoration work is completed, Mr Patterson is keen to see her take pride of place in Chatham.

He said: "We want to keep as much of the collection together as we can.

"More pieces from the wreck are due to arrive in Chatham, like



musket shot and grenades.

"Who knows what else they are going to be able to recover in the coming few seasons?

"This is a ground-breaking operation. She played such a vital role in the development of the third rate

ships of the line, which were the workhorses of the Royal Navy.

"We presently have more than 800 objects recovered from earlier excavations of the Invincible during the 1980 spread over four galleries.

"These include delicate sandglasses

and timbers to personal items such as the 'Fox and Geese' popular board game for sailors.

"All these together provide us with the knowledge of what life was like on board the Georgian warship."

However, what will be recovered will not look like a ship, as Mr Patterson explained.

"It will definitely not look like the Mary Rose because of her position in the Solent," he said.

"There is a lot of traffic and water movement and over the hundreds of years, all this will have had an effect.

"Before the spot she lays was protected, there would have been a lot of passing shipping, so the water movements will have taken their toll.

"She could have easily been knocked and moved."

The recovery costs are being met by a small slice of the millions in fines paid to the government by banks for manipulating what is called the Libor lending system, where banks lend each other money at particular interest rates.

LONG LINE OF INVINCIBLES...

THE Invincible was first to carry the illustrious name.

In all, there have been seven Royal Navy ships called HMS Invincible.

After the first was lost in The Solent, another 74-gun ship was launched in 1765 at Deptford. She fought at the Battle of Cape St Vincent in 1780 against the Spanish fleet, and again at the Battle of St Kitts and the Glorious First of June, both of which were against the French.

This ship also helped St Lucia,

Trinidad and Surinam and finally went down off Norfolk in 1801, killing 400.

Next came another 74-gun in 1808 which was launched at Woolwich. She saw action in the Peninsular War before being broken up in 1861, in Plymouth.

The 1869 version was armoured and later renamed Erebus in 1904 and Fismard II in 1906, before going down in a 1914 storm.

She was renamed to allow for HMS Invincible in 1907 which was a feared battlecruiser attached to

the 1st Cruiser Squadron, Home Fleet, at the end of 1908.

She fought at the Battle of Heligoland Bight, the Battle of the Falkland Islands, and the Battle of Jutland, where she blew up and sank after taking a hit from SMS Lützow, with the loss of 1,026 crew. Tragically, just six survived.

And then there was the light aircraft carrier, the first of three in the Invincible class. She served between 1980 and 2005 taking in the Falklands War before being scrapped in Turkey in 2011.

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DARKNESS: Screens glow in the low light

Gamers in heaven at Play Expo

Margate's second annual video game celebration also showcases latest technology writes **Chris Britcher...**

JUST when you think the world of video games can't expand any further, cannot capture the attention any more, something comes along which reminds us all that if the technology is advancing, you can be certain gaming will too.

The Play Expo at Margate's Winter Gardens last weekend was not only a homage to the roots of today's super-sophisticated games, but also of what is emerging right now.

From Pokemon Go – announcers even pointed out when certain of the virtual characters were in the vicinity resulting in a general flurry of smart phones being pulled out of pockets and virtual Poke balls being hurled in every direction – to the latest virtual reality head-sets.

Because it is surely the ability to immerse yourself in a completely created landscape that is the future of gaming – and in five years few would bet against most of us donning elaborate head-sets to get our fix of gaming.

What's more the Pokemon Go phenomenon demonstrates that harnessing and uniting the intense power we are carry in our pockets with our mobile phones points to more elaborate and innovative developments.

But while a vision of what is to come was present and correct, the Play Expo is very much about celebrating the past and enjoying the here and now.

Play Expo is, in essence, simply an opportunity to play video games on everything from the earliest gaming consoles to the most modern.

Row upon row of machines line the main arena of the Winter Gardens, a darkened area with pinpricks of light emanating from each of the monitors, allowing those attending unrestricted access to those games which

entertained players in the 1980s and every subsequent decade. And once you've paid your entrance fee, everything is free to play. A treat in itself.

It would be easy for today's teen to turn their nose up at some of the early games on display, but Play knows its audience well, and for the many 30 and 40-somethings attending – more often than not bringing their children to highlight what it was like in their day – the chance to settle down for a few rounds of Bomb Jack were too hard to ignore.

After all, much of this audience continues to play in their homes. Do not make the mistake gaming is the preserve of the young only.

The graphics of so many of the games on the likes of various Nintendo, Sega, Sony and Microsoft platforms look pitiful in comparison to today's high-resolution beauties, but the sheer playability of many of them have survived the test of time.

It is perhaps fitting that the lights were low in the main hall. After all, the popular view of the gaming community is of whiffy teens in bedrooms with curtains drawn and no real appreciation of hygiene expectations.

But gaming is far more than that in today's society. We all got anxious about our kids playing in the streets and at the mercy of (the national media created) more unpleasant aspects of society. And so video games provided the solution. Now our kids are, ironically, more sociable than ever before as fast broadband allows them to play games in the privacy of their rooms while chatting to dozens of their friends at the same time.

It's easy to say they should be getting out and about more – and indeed they ought to – but it is a mistake to think they are withdrawing from their communities. The reality is that today they can create a community online in which they can speak (not

just type) to their friends in relatively safe environments.

Indeed that is the main thing that Play reminds us of. For all the consoles prior to the current crop of Xbox Ones and Playstation 4s, the focus was on the single player experience – a mounting difficulty level for one person. And it is there that gaming acquired its solo pursuit tag.

Today, though, the whole gaming experience is based around multi-player arenas, where you go head-to-head with other players – be they friends or those on the other side of the world.

Hence, the biggest demand was for the networked gaming areas – the chance to take on players in virtual worlds on the likes of Halo while they all sit right next to you.

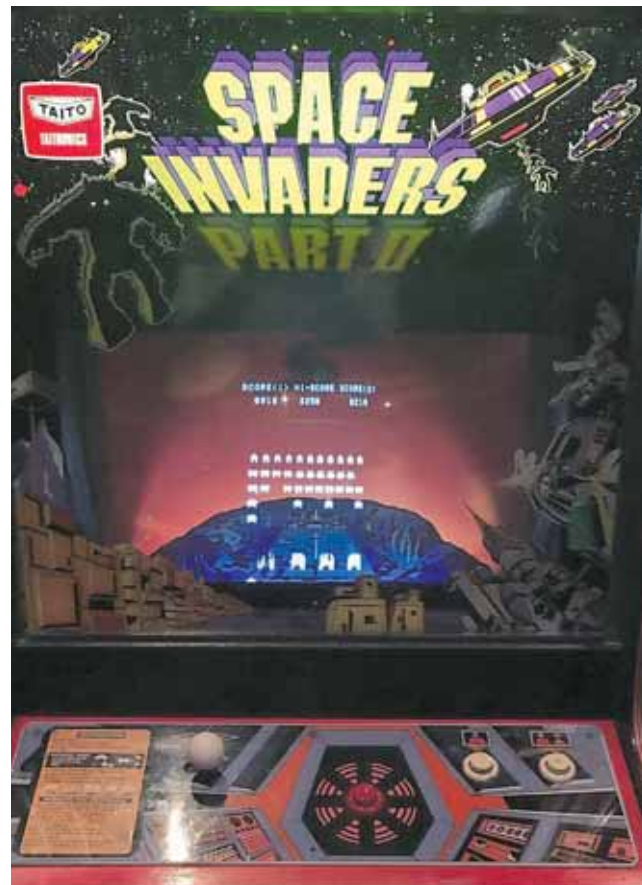
But perhaps the most fun area was where a host of retro arcade machines and a spread of fabulous pin-ball tables were laid out.

From Space Invaders to the button-hammering fun of Track and Field-style games, took many back to the days where graphics to impress were always at least 10p away for a few moments of alien-bashing fun.

For anyone who spent time on pin-balls, the chance to get to grips again with the likes of some classics – including the sublime Addams Family – were impossible to resist.

As you made your way up to the entrance, and your eyes adjusted to bright warm sunshine outside, then there were countless sellers offering original GameCubes, N64s, Megadrives and plenty more to take home and remind yourself of what it was all once like.

The only problem for organisers was that the weather was so fabulous outside and Margate's glorious coastline was drenched in sunshine and blue skies, it was hard for most parents to think a good weekend out



INVADERS: They came, they saw, they took over our leisure time...

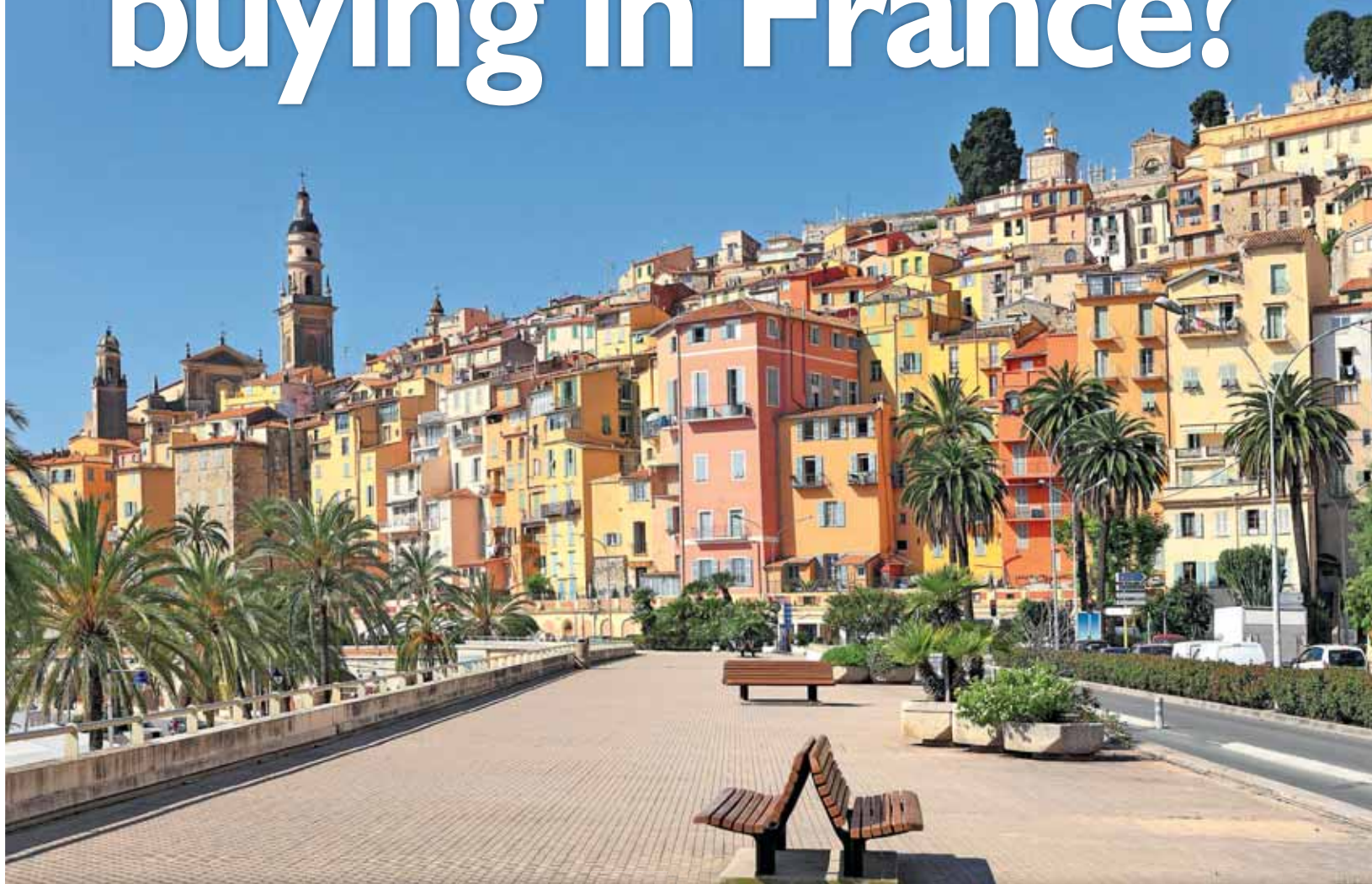
would involve hours spent in a darkened room and paying for the honour.

Summer holidays may bring the crowds, but it does also present a challenge.

Play Expo continues as a fun event and is now in its second year in a seaside town so synonymous with an arcade game past.

As a genuinely fun event for all ages, it really is hard to beat.

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How radio can be 'literally a lifeline'

Sheppey FM doesn't just provide entertainment, it's also a year-round helping hand and source of advice to vulnerable residents with physical and mental health disabilities...

By Chris Murphy
chris.murphy@archant.co.uk

VULNERABLE residents suffering physical and mental health disabilities in Swale are set to benefit from the launch of an award-winning community radio station.

One of three to launch in the county with official licences in recent weeks, Sheppey FM is "quite literally a lifeline", aimed at those who need a little extra help with their day-to-day life.

Based at the Sheppey Community Media Centre (SCMC) in Heritage Pavilion, it also aims to act as a tourism hub, networking closely with event organisers and the wider community.

Julie Nicholls is the project manager of Sheppey Matters, the island's major charity which promotes healthy living and a healthy lifestyle.

She told us: "It is great to be awarded a FM Community Radio Licence from Ofcom in recognition of the unique service we provide for adults and young people with physical or mental health disabilities.

"There is not another radio station in Kent that focuses on training opportunities for the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

"The Heritage Pavilion in Sheerness, owned by Swale Borough Council, was regenerated by our volunteers and returned to community use.

"This inspirational team has dedicated its time and passion to serving the community for the last four years and this FM licence is well deserved.

"We highlighted a huge demand for training and volunteering opportunities for people with additional needs and therefore focus our help and support to this specialist group with one-to-one training courses which aim to engage those who feel socially excluded.

"The courses are flexible so varying abilities can be accommodated, from basic life skills through to accredited qualifications.

"Over the last four years we have successfully trained over 600 students in media, partnering with Canterbury College Swale Campus, Oasis Academy, Fulston Manor, Westlands, and many specialist educational bodies across Kent."

The station is renowned for providing work experience for schools and colleges and is popular with stu-

dents from universities nationwide.

It also scooped the Inspiring Youth Project Award from the British Youth Council YOB [Youth on Board] for its Saturday Radio Club, which encourages young people to socially interact, behave responsibly and train in their own time.

"We are a recognised 'Arts Award Centre' and our qualified team deliver accredited qualifications in media to our youngest trainees," Mrs Nicholls added

"We also offer awards to students via the Prince's Trust, Duke of Edinburgh, Diana Awards and V-Inspired.

"We work with Kent Police and HM Prisons with their young offenders to help reduce anti-social behaviour.

"The amazing Sheppey FM volunteers work 365 days a year to host community radio shows featuring local news and information, promoting local clubs, theatres, activities and events on the hourly Community Diary spots.

"The volunteers welcome many guests on their shows to talk about local topical issues and news. Our guests' photos are displayed on our Facebook page and include a story supporting their services with further help contact details."

The station has highlighted the need to network with local health support groups to provide essential information and guidance to local people.

The radio shows are dedicated to raising awareness of these services by providing vital information and contact details to listeners for organisations like Dementia Inspired, ADHD support group, New Leaf Support, Domestic Abuse, Asperger Awareness – presented by two young lads suffering with the syndrome, and Parkinson's presented by a sufferer of the disease.

"The Sheppey FM Roadshow attends local fundraising and community events to promote and support our community and in 2015 we supported over 88 events," Mrs Nicholls said.

"Bookings for 2016 are radiating across Kent to include the Whitstable Regatta, Medway World Peace Day, Mencap Fun Day, Faversham and Prince's Trust, Chatham.

"Sheppey FM volunteers have raised over £3,800 for charities and



featured on 2015 BBC's Children in Need.

"Without the passion of these volunteers, about 50 in total, many with special needs, the SCMC and Sheppey FM could not have become the resounding success that it is and reached its goal of an FM licence.

"It is difficult to categorise the life-changing results that we achieve but the importance of the care we provide should not be underestimated.

"It is quite literally a lifeline for many socially isolated individuals and beneficial to community cohesion.

"The community support and respect we receive from the island has now extended over Swale and Kent and we look forward to delivering an even better service under our new community radio licence."

Sheppey FM is not the only Kent station to obtain such a licence, following the launch of Radio Cabin, serving the population of Herne Bay.

Chairman Peter Jell told us: "We have two years to officially launch the station, but the hard work starts now.

"We are looking for new members to come on board, this could be in various roles from presenting shows, assisting in outside broadcasts, reading local news bulletins or on the newly formed listeners panel.

"We will also be able to offer advertising deals for local businesses at very affordable prices, this will give them the opportunity to advertise on a platform that could be out of their price range for advertising.

"We will attend as many local events as possible and broadcast from there live, so their events gets as much radio coverage as possible."

The station has a Restricted Service Licence to look forward to, which this year runs from August 13 to 28 on 105.3FM, covering all major events that the seaside town has to offer.

"Starting with the Herne Bay Carnival on our first day of broadcast, we will broadcast the whole day of The Herne Bay Air Show live, with all commentary including the Red Arrows," Mr Jell said.

"Finally, there is the Herne Bay Festival, with live broadcasts from many of the free events."

A community service on the medium wave band called Miskin Radio is also set to serve those living in Gravesham, Dartford and Bexley.

FRIEND: Sheppey FM is much more than just a radio station...

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16 September, 2016 • Quote: WI9-KOS

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Madeira Carnival

By Air from Gatwick

22 February, 2017 • Quote: MC2-KOS

The Carnival of Madeira is known as one of the best in Europe. There are two main parades - the allegoric parade features thousands of participants in magnificent colourful costumes dancing to electrifying Samba music through the streets of the capital, Funchal. The second, called Trapalhao, features carnival goers in daring costumes and local caricatures. Included excursions take in the best of the island.

INCLUDED: Return flights Gatwick to Funchal with luggage • 7 nights stay at a 4-star hotel in Funchal • 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners from the buffet, plus afternoon coffee and cake • Drinks included with lunch and dinner - aperitifs, local wine, beer, soft drinks and local spirits • Entertainment on 3 evenings • 2 half days and 1 full-day excursion • Seating for the carnival • Airport/hotel transfers in Madeira • Services of our representative in resort



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Carry on New Year Party in Leicestershire Self-Drive

27 January, 2017 • Quote: BO1-KOS

Extend your New Year celebrations at Bosworth Hall Hotel, in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. Our popular private party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. There will be super entertainment from 60s band Union Gap and Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) plus Bus Stop. Add to this 2-for-1 drinks both nights and this is one party that's set to rock.

INCLUDED: 2 drinks for the price of 1 from 7pm to 11pm both nights • 2 nights sharing an en-suite twin or double bedroom • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts • Live entertainment both nights plus GN Host on site • Free use of leisure facilities (indoor pool & gym) • Free car Parking



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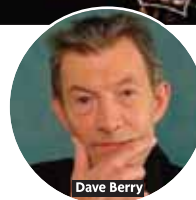
Spring Back to the 60s Party - Pontins Pakefield

Suffolk Coast - Self-Drive

Friday, 10 March, 2017 • Quote: PP3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring Party - for over 40s only - to blow away the winter cobwebs. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring Marty Wilde and the Wildcats, Cupids Inspiration, Glenn Darren and the Krewcats, Dave Berry PLUS The Cilla Show. Enjoy non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers • Entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - club upgrade available • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • Free Parking





RANTING: Miles Jupp brings his new comedy show *Songs of Freedom* to the Kent coast in October, catch him Margate on the 12th at 7.30pm

Miles rants about life and living – but all very politely

Comedian brings his new show *Songs of Freedom* to Margate's Theatre Royal

COMEDIAN Miles Jupp's new show, *Songs of Freedom*, is "a rant about me, you, domestic imprisonment, fatherhood, having to have opinions, hot drinks, the government, bad balance, housing, ill health, the ageing process, navigation and other people's pants".

An example is a recent incident at the house he shares with his wife, Rachel, and their five children in the Welsh borders. "I can get angry very, very quickly about inanimate objects, particularly if they don't do what I want them to do," says Miles.

"We've just had a new boiler put in and I can't operate it. I've read the instructions but it's got this enormous control panel and I don't understand it, or for that matter why it makes the radiators come

on at 3am. The man who installed it has to come back and talk us through it."

The News Quiz host adds: "And now we have bought a smart TV and, after not having had a television for eight years, it's all slightly baffling. It's the equivalent of going on a yoga retreat and in the intervening time the industrial revolution has happened. 'What's going on? I don't know how to use a loom...'"

"Of course our seven-year-old understands how the TV works perfectly, but I can't very well go and wake him up at midnight and say, 'We want to watch *Peaky Blinders*, come and find it for us...'"

Many of Miles' fans will be keen listeners to Radio 4's topical comedy show which he took over as host of last year, and which he is enjoying enormously.

"I love working as part of a team,

and I hope people listening get some sense of me as a person, rather than just some bloke capable of reading stuff out loud."

Miles' father was a minister in the United Reform Church and he himself studied Divinity at Edinburgh University. While still a student there he started acting and, for those of a certain age, he will forever be Archie the Inventor in CBeebies' *Balamory*.

"I often get people come up to me and start talking about it," he says. "For me it was a long time ago, but for them it's a defining part of their childhood."

Apart from 'The News Quiz', people know Miles from television as fusspot Nigel in the ecclesiastical comedy 'Rev', as Captain Fanshaw in soldiering comedy *Gary Tank Commander*, as John Duggan in 'The Thick of It' and from his self-penned 'In and Out of the

Kitchen', in which he played minor celebrity chef Damian Trench. Miles says 'In and Out' of the Kitchen won't return to the BBC, but he is currently writing Damian's memoir, due for publication later this year.

He also appeared as the Valet of Greystoke in *The Legend of Tarzan*, which was released earlier this year in July, and is Blackberry in an upcoming new adaptation of Richard Adams' *Watership Down* for the BBC.

In the meantime, audiences at his live shows will be able to enjoy the real version of Miles having a rant at modern life's multiple irritations – politely, of course, without a hint of unpleasantness but with a lot of laughs.

Miles Jupp: *Songs of Freedom* can be seen at the Theatre Royal Margate on Wednesday, October 12. Visit theatreroyalmargate.com

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WELL travelled widow, 70 years young, GSOH, lively and outgoing, lots of interests including walks, bowls, socialising and the theatre, WLTW similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423029

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

LISA, fun loving and free, WLTW passionate, broadminded male, any age, discreet honest, seaside location. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422877

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 422363

KIM, 50, lovely kind, 5ft 6, brown eyes, dark curly hair, curly figure seeks nice genuine guy for LTR, same age as me. Text only Mailbox: 5512493

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

TAMARA, Indian woman, Muslim, 43, golden brown skin, long black straight hair, WLTW male in his 40s. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423153

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 421657

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422393

LORRAINE, attractive solvent brunet, 34yrs, own house/car wltm gent any age, looks unimportant but must have GSOH. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box 422415

RITA, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, shes very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422403

FELICITY, well educated, sophisticated lady, 38yrs, unhappily married and looking for a distraction with a man 30+, must be discreet. Text only Mailbox: 4023417

MARIA 57, likes gym, outdoors, wildlife, seeking nice male for nights out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417573

BLACK professional female seeks professional Lebanese or Egyptian or Indian (must be fair skinned man)... for marriage. Text only Mailbox: 5373562

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

KAY, 66, slim blonde, 5'5, very active, loves travel, outdoor life and much more. Seeks white guy 60-69 in Reading area. Text only Mailbox: 5312512

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375

EARLY 70s, young at heart widow, likes dancing, eating out and in, pub lunches, theater and cinema, keep fit, the sun, WLTW gent 65-75, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421761

GENUINE, GSH, attractive, outgoing professional female, 55. Enjoys keeping fit, socialising and travel, WLTW similar male for relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5453851

WIDOW would like to meet a gent 64-74yrs with a good sense of humour, I love dancing, cinema, theatre, pub lunches, all the normal things. There must be someone out there and I live in Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418727

YOUNG at heart lady, 60s, genuine, seeks warm, down-to-earth gentleman, similar age, for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420773

MERRY, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422339

LAURA, single mum, 29yrs, blue eyed blonde, fair skinned, pretty. Lonely and seeking adult company when the kids are in bed! ACA. Text Only Box: 4161735

BARBARA, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422411

50YRS, old attractive lady, Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422469

FEMALE, blue eyes, slim and witty, from South Africa, young fifties, seeking a sincere, retired gentleman who resides close to the sea. Text only Mailbox: 5456242

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

SUSAN 44, blonde hair, well educated, professional, GSOH, likes music, travel, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414069

SLIM blonde lady, very young 66, active, fun loving, many interests, seeks unattached white guy, 60-68, Reading area. Text only to mailbox: 5312512

YOUNG 56 year old lady, gosh, 5ft5, larger lady, affectionate, likes eating out, films, music, socialising, looking for a relationship with a genuine, honest, loving, romantic man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421363

ORIENTAL lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTW a reliable, sincere man for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5443434

FEMALE, young 58, 5ft2, size 14, blonde, bubbly, GSOH, warm, loving, kind and caring, loves music, animals, seaside, looking for that special someone. Text only Mailbox: 4715158

LORNA, Afro-Caribbean lady, retired nurse, late 60s, seeking similar aged gentleman, n/s, someone who is kind and honest, looking for friendship. Croydon area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420183

DAISY 50, WLTW nice guy 45-59 for discreet friendship maybe more. Likes going for a drink, rock music and holidays. Text only to Mailbox no: 3804641

CAROLE 52, long chestnut hair, attractive, 5ft 4ins, medium build, likes travel, animals, countryside, seeks Scottish male, under 57 with hair. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380448

GEORGE you left Carole a message but I did not get your phone number, please call again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380942

KAY, young 66, widow, slim, blonde, 5'5, GSOH. Very active, loves travel, outdoor life and loads more looking for white male. Text only to mailbox no: 5312512

ANDREA pre-op transsexual, 56 years old, blonde hair blue eyes, likes cosy nights in, pubs meals out, long walks looking for a nice man. Text only to Mailbox no: 5310019

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

PENSIONER widower with car seeks sequence ballroom dancer who is good with naughty boys. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418113

HARRY, 56, attractive guy, divorced, looking for an attractive female for meet ups and erotic, sensual, no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423159

COUNTRY gent, 50, seeks open minded lady, for fun and friendship, possibly more, by impulsive romantic, dining out and in, and sexy fun too. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423127

TALL, fit, funky guy, early 50s, Basinstoke, would like some female company, to enjoy hot summer days and cold winter evenings with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423149

WALLACE, 60, 5ft3, seeking a genuine petite lady, 57-67, likes holidays in Spain, looking for a LTR for love and much more. Surrey, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423313

BEN, kind caring gent, 37yrs, very tall and well built with curly black hair. Own home, good job, just missing a special lady. Text Only Box: 4158248

EASY going male 56, athletic build looking for a lady for fun times and leisure activities. Any age. I'm in Worthing. Text only Mailbox: 5458706

FUN loving, discreet man, looking for NSA friendship and fun with a very open minded lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423191

ELLEN, young retired, divorced, new to W Sussex, seeks friend for outings, dinners and similar. Must be 55-65 genuine, educated and fun. Text only to Mailbox no: 5068020

MARINA cuddly blonde, blue eyes, kind, caring, loyal, down to earth, lonely girl. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414627

CHANTELLE, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

KAY 66 widow, slim, blonde 5'5, fun loving, loves travel, out door life and much more. Seeks similar man aged 59-69 for friendship, maybe more. Text only to Mailbox no: 5312512

ANDREA pre-op transsexual, 56 years old, blonde hair blue eyes, likes cosy nights in, pubs meals out, long walks looking for a nice man. Text only to Mailbox no: 5310019

MALE 48, own business, average looks, medium build and looking for love. Must like the good things in life, 30-55yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390746

PASSIONATE male missing female companionship, would you like to join me in discreet fun and adult humour? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406611

PAUL 51, likes meals out, music, weekends away, seeking female to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413479

ALAN, 56, single, from Brighton, looking for a lady, 50-59, who s nice and easy to get along with, and would be interested in going out for a drink and a meal and a chat then give me a call! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421955

JOHN, Sussex gentleman, 6ft, very tactile, seeks lady, 30-60, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422903

BEN, 48, musician, nice looking, fit, 5ft10, intelligent, caring, charming, clean-cut image, seeks lady any age/looks who requires daytime, discreet, very passionate fun meetings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421399

PAUL 51, genuine WLTW female 25-45 for friendship and fun, maybe more. Text only Mailbox: 5447746

WIDOWER with car, seeks female ballroom/sequence dancer. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418377

HOVE pensioner, widower, with a car, seeks dominant female for adult, naughty fun, age and looks not important. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419479

OLD pensioner/widower, with car, seeks female for adult fun and role-play, I also dance, sing and swim. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421139

MATURE male, married, looking for adult daytime fun with a lady, any status/age/nationality, give me a call I sh have some fun! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423077

CLIFF young 50s, working nights, has plenty free time in day, looking to meet lady for fun, maybe more. Age 30-55. Text only Mailbox: 5495780

RYAN 50yrs, 5ft 9ins, medium build, considered attractive, N/S, lives London, loves Eastbourne, looking for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404739

WELL travelled, tall, fit widower in his 70's living in mid Sussex, seeks a lively widow for outings, stimulating conversation. Text only Mailbox: 5473939

SLIM Jamaican male, 68, n/s, likes walking, theatre, cinema and holidays, seeks slim to medium build West Indian lady, 65-68, n/s, for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422629

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THOMAS athletic, easygoing, likes sports, meals out, cinema, nights out, seeks female, 40-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388192

OUTGOING friendly guy seeks similar female to share good times with. Text only Mailbox: 4915263

MALE, 47, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, separated, have grown up teenagers, lives alone, works full time, looking for that special someone that will lead to a LTR and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421943

PAUL, 51, likes meals out, music, weekends away, seeking female to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413479

ALAN, 56, single, from Brighton, looking for a lady, 50-59, who s nice and easy to get along with, and would be interested in going out for a drink and a meal and a chat then give me a call! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421955

MATURE male seeks female, any age/status not important for casual fun. Nice flat, nice car. Witney. Text only Mailbox: 5467178

48YR old male, seeks female, 30-60 who enjoys the good things, meals out, cinema, theatre, music, holidays, weekends away etc. East Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386756

JACK, 55, good looking, fit and in shape WLTW broadminded lady, any age for social and relaxation interludes. Text only Mailbox: 5458706

PAUL, 53, business man, genuine, likes eating out, films, music, holidays and having fun, WLTW a similar loving, caring female, age and looks unimportant, for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422521

MALE, 42, fit, active, stocky, seeks larger lady, 40-50ish, for NSA fun, Sussex area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422481

PAUL 46, 5ft 8ins, 14st, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, seeks Miss Right/soul mate, friend and lover. 30-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379206



76YR old

widower, ex military/air lines, likes boating, motor cycling, seeks Tinkerbell to make me laugh again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409201

LADY, 70+, sought by caring and affectionate 70 year old male, for long term, intimate relationship, initially daytime only, larger lady very welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421995

Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MALE, 68yrs, 5ft 4ins looking for genuine gay male, similar height and size. Text only Mailbox: 4859409

MATURE bi male seeks similar for fun and friendship. Text only Mailbox: 4641909

ALERIE cuddly blonde, late 50s, 5ft 1ins, seeks bi lady of similar age for friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410203

60S bi male, WLTW similar guys for fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423273

BI male, seeking to meet pre op TS or TV, for no strings attached, local fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422647

BI guy WLTW similar bi or gay guy, 18-30. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421283

Friends

SARAH 35, bi, seeking that special someone, male/female, 30-45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413123

JACK 55, slim, athletic, clean, intelligent, WLTW female 35 to 55 for rearing and stress free interludes WORTHING area text only. Text only Mailbox: 5458706

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Records tumbling and spinning at Dreamland's music sessions

By Tim Miles

tim.miles@archant.co.uk

RECORDS aren't just tumbling at Dreamland this summer they're going to be spinning too.

With the Margate-based amusement park having just announced its biggest single daily number of visitors – hopes are high for its weekly Saturday night live music and DJ sets.

Already thousands of free tickets for the retro fun park's 'twilight sessions' have been snapped up to see top name acts taking to the decks including DJ Grandmaster Flash, Dave Rowntree (Ex-Blur) and Kent duo Slaves.

Legendary DJ Grandmaster Flash showcases his unrivalled skills with a night of Hip Hop.

While Blur veteran and XFM DJ Dave Rowntree will be taking over the bandstand for his mix of the best indie music around.

Mercury nominated Kent duo Slaves take to the turntables to play an eclectic mix of their influences and tastes so expect reggae, punk and 80's.

Headlining a punk night will be



TWILIGHT SESSIONS: Among those appearing are Grandmaster Flash (above) and Kent's own Slaves

Riskee And The Ridicule, while Trojan Sound System will be celebrating Jamaican Independence Day by the sea.

Also as the town turns rainbow for Margate Pride, Livin' Joy (I'm a Dreamer) and Sink the Pink take to the stage.

The dates are:

■ Saturday, July 30 - Dreamland Does Indie with guest DJ Dave Rowntree.

■ Saturday, August 6 – Trojan Sound System's Jamaican vibes.

■ Saturday, August 13 - Margate Pride Takeover ft. Sink the Pink and Livin' Joy (I'm a Dreamer).

■ Saturday, August 20 - Hip Hop Night with DJ Grandmaster Flash.

■ Saturday, August 27 - Punk Up headlined by Riskee And The Ridicule.



Jocelyn's got the power

SOUL star Jocelyn Brown, the voice behind Snap's number one hit I Got the Power, is set to entertain audiences in Canterbury this year. She will be performing at The Marlowe Theatre on September 7.



Craft and design show

ACTIVITIES for all the family will be held at The Weald of Kent Craft and Design Show, which returns to Penshurst Place between September 9 and 11.

Craft-makers' demonstrations, food and drink, a plant nursery and a re-created Chelsea Flower Show entry will be on show.

Jim celebrates 40 years

VETERAN comedian Jim Davidson is celebrating forty years in showbusiness with a new stage play looking back at his career. The comedian appears at Margate Winter Gardens on November 18.



Steve cues up the music

SNOOKER star Steve Davis swaps his cue for turntable decks as he heads to Ramsgate Music Hall for a DJ set on September 3.

Joined by side kick Kavus Torabi, he received rave review for his set at the Block Weekend electronic festival.

Tickets, costing £15, are on sale now.



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Citizen art on show at dock

A SERIES of paintings of EU citizens by British artists comes to the University of Kent's School of Music and Fine Art (SMFA) at The Historic Dockyard Chatham. Open daily from July 19 to August 10.



Come up and see Rebels

FORMER Cockney Rebel frontman Steve Harley is back on the road with former bandmates, James Lascelles and Barry Wickens.

The trio will play a series of shows in November, including at The Assembly Halls, Tunbridge Wells, on November 2.

Get the shivers at Hever

THE sun may still be shining but Hever Castle has unveiled its Halloween half term treats.

Come dressed in your scariest costume and enjoy ghostly goings-on from October 22 - 30.



Our relationship with sea

AN exhibition at the Turner Contemporary this autumn explores man's relationship with the sea.

Vertigo Sea, by John Akomfrah, combines archive material, original footage and readings from classical sources to explore whaling, the environment and our connection to the ocean.

It will run from October 6 to January 8.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is firing on all cylinders

TICKETS are still available for the much-loved musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, which flies into Canterbury this summer.

The show, at The Marlowe Theatre from Wednesday 24 August, stars Lee Mead (Casualty, Legally Blonde, Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat) as Caractacus Potts; Claire Sweeney (Brookside, Strictly Come Dancing, Loose Women, Chicago, Guys And Dolls, Educating Rita, and Hairspray) as Baroness Bomburst; Phill Jupitus (The Producers, Hairspray) as Lord Scrumptious/Baron Bomburst; Carrie Hope Fletcher (Les Misérables, War Of The Worlds) as Truly Scrumptious; Matt Gillett (Jersey Boys, Top Hat) as the Childcatcher; and Andy Hockley (The Phantom Of The Opera) as Grandpa Potts.

This new production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, from Music & Lyrics and West Yorkshire Playhouse, has sensational sets, stunning special effects and a memorable score by the Sherman brothers, including Truly Scrumptious, Toot Sweets,



Hushabye Mountain, and the Oscar-nominated title song.

The Sherman brothers were also responsible for Mary Poppins, The Slipper and the Rose, The Aristocats and The Jungle Book.

They have won two Academy Awards with a further nine nominations, two Grammy Awards and they have received 21 gold and platinum albums.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is at The Marlowe Theatre from Wednesday, August 24, to

Saturday, September 3, (various performance times). Tickets, priced from £26 to £49.50 (concessions available; booking fee applies), are from the Box Office on 01227 787787.

The show will be audio described (for blind and partially-sighted customers), captioned (for deaf and hard-of-hearing customers) and signed (for deaf customers who use British Sign Language).

For full details visit the website at marlowetheatre.com



BARONESS: Claire Sweeney



BARON: Phill Jupitus



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Get a taste of Rio as we prepare for Olympics

New book Carnival! is your guide on how to throw an authentic Brazilian street party...

WITH all eyes on the Rio this summer, as the 2016 Olympics limber up, it's little wonder there's such an appetite for all things Brazilian right now.

And if you're in the mood to jazz up dinner times in celebration of the Games, look no further than Carnival! – the first 'definitive guide to throwing an authentic Brazilian street party' – where you'll find all the right ingredients to dish up some Rio-ready fare.

"Not only will it give you a feel of what Team GB are eating on the ground, but the tastes and flavours will whisk you away and have you dreaming of Brazilian beach and

street parties," promises co-author Lizzy Barber, who penned the title with her brother Jamie Barber and Rio-born David Ponte.

The colourful little book covers everything from vibrant, Brazilian finger food and BBQ recipes, to refreshing cocktails – Caipirinha being the tipple of choice – and even features tips on dancing the Samba.

And Barber and her co-writers certainly know a thing or two about local customs, doubling up as the restaurateur team behind the popular and ever-expanding UK chain of Cabana Brazilian Barbecue restaurants.

"No Brazilian party would be complete without some Samba tunes," she says.



"You'll see Brazilians breaking out these moves, impromptu, whenever the mood takes them.

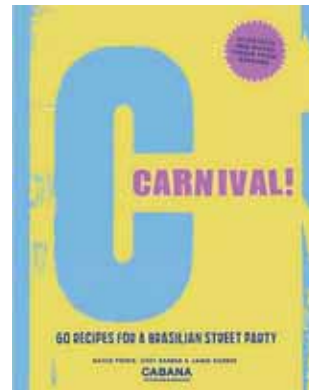
"Cachaca [Brazil's national, rum-like spirit] is vital for recreating the Rio vibes," she adds.

"Brazilians add it to anything – rumour has it some even run their cars on it – and it's equally good in a cocktail or a marinade."

But the most vital ingredient of all? "It's got to be meat!" Barber quips. "Brazilians are famous for their steaks, especially Picanha (cap of rump), which is their favourite cut."

"We marinate ours in chilli and cumin, or for the ultimate Cabana flavour, marinate chicken in our signature Spicy Malagueta sauce."

"So whether you're planning a barbecue in the garden or are rained in watching all the Olympic action on TV," she finishes, "you can make like a Carioca – that's a Rio local – and imagine you're on Copacabana Beach."



BRAZILIAN: Food and fun

Let's do the Time Warp

GET your stockings and suspenders ready – the Rocky Horror Show is returning to Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre next week.

Starring X Factor finalist Diana Vickers as Janet and S Club 7's Paul Cattermole as Eddie – plus The Voice's Liam Tammie as Dr Frank N Furter – the hugely popular show runs from August 1 to 6.

Tickets are on sale now.

Summer reading fun

YOUNGSTERS are being encouraged to read six books over the summer holiday as part of a Roald Dahl-themed event.

Children between the ages of four and 11 can sign up to The Big Friendly Read at their local library.

They will receive a special collectors' folder as they borrow and read at least six library books over the summer, and can collect six special cards to complete it.

Solid gold rock 'n' roll

POP's original dreamboats are back on the road as they give music-lovers the chance to relive rock 'n' roll's golden age.

Marty Wilde, Eden Kane, Mike Berry and Mark Wynter are headlining The Solid Gold Rock N'Roll Show 2016.

The show is at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on October 23, Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall on October 28 and Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on November 16.

Sell-out for Jah Wobble

JAH Wobble heads to the county this autumn to celebrate 40 years in the music business.

Touring with his band The Invaders of the Heart, the 57-year-old – real name John Wardle – shot to fame in the 1970s as part of John Lydon's Public Image Ltd before a successful solo career.

The show at Ramsgate Music Hall on October 20 has already sold out.

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Forget scoring points sort debt

BASED on your report re Mr Tim Farron, he states that the Conservatives promise of £350m/week would be spent on the NHS and has quietly abandoned.

I clearly remember Mr Gove saying – and it was on a TV programme – that we pay £350m to the EU each week and if we weren't in they would give £10billion (which equates to £190m approx/week) when the negotiations had been completed which is somewhat different from his statement. He has always when I have listened to him put Britain down.

I believe he ought to address far more important issues which to me are that countries in the EU are suppose to be partners and work together, in reality every country looks after its own interests a good example is the problems of Greece where Germany wouldn't give any help after its own country had substantial help in 1953 for rebuilding its economy.

What will happen with other countries such as Italy, Spain, Portugal even France who are heading to a financial problems if they haven't got them already, would Britain have to dig deeper into our pockets to help them if we stayed in. We are already in a dreadful financial mess with a debt of £1.7 trillion and getting bigger by the day.

I would suggest rather than he trying to score points he should be sorting out the problems his party had a hand in creating, that is make Britain pay its way not make the debt greater.

There are many other issues such as how many criminals are out on the streets because of the ECJ and human rights those are the issues that need attending to.

David Preston
 Tunbridge Wells

Majority going to airport talks

MAY I say that it is enlightening to read that hundreds of people have been turning up to attend RiverOak's informal consultation events for their plans to re-open Manston Airport.

It puts the events run by Stone Hill Park Ltd, of their plans to build at least 2,500 houses and a "mixed-use development" on the site, to shame!

Ralph Allison
 Gillingham.

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Restore home rule to City of Canterbury

THE 1972 Redcliffe-Maud Report on local government reorganisation was a compromise. Government subsequently recognised it did not provide involvement for communities in the cities and towns within the large districts, resulting in the option of Area Member Panels able to be introduced, but only as discussion forums, making recommendations to committees, not decisions.

In March 2013, the Canterbury Area Member Panel unanimously resolved not to implement the Westgate Towers Traffic Trial but were then overruled on Canterbury District Council by the interference of outside Councillors representing Wards in Bridge, Blean, Herne Bay and Whitstable.

In 1448, King Henry VI granted Canterbury a Royal Charter, decreeing the City should be "of one Mayor and one commonalty, wholly corporate for ever". The charter conferred county powers on the city.

"For ever" came at midnight on March 31, 1974, with the implementation of the Local Government Act 1972 abolishing the County of the City of Canterbury, Bridge-Blean Rural District Council, Herne Bay Urban District Council, and Whitstable Urban District Council; replacing them by one larger Canterbury District

Council and ending five hundred and twenty-six years of historically important independence for the County of the City of Canterbury.

County boroughs were the original all-in-one single tier local authority, with both the city council and county council responsibilities fully integrated.

The Canterbury Education Authority of the County of the City of Canterbury was also the paid managing agent for the St Augustine's Division of the Kent Education Authority, demonstrating an effective and efficient use of scarce resources without overlapping layers. Counties corporate became county boroughs under the Local Government Act 1888. Kent had only one county borough. Other towns became boroughs but not with county powers.

At the entrance to the Westgate Gardens next to the Westgate Towers there is a clue to the historical importance of the original City of Canterbury. The signboard serves as a reminder of the importance of the county status granted to the city and removed as part of the arbitrary one-size-fits-all amalgamation of boroughs into larger districts, which took effect forty-two years ago.

Long live restoration of the City of Canterbury as a County Borough!

Richard West,
 Canterbury

'Remoaners' still throwing toys...

OH dear, the 'Remoaners' are still

throwing their toys out of the pram! [KoS Letters 24/07].

Going by the gospel according to DR Hodges, most of our general elections have not been democratic and led to dictatorships, as parties

has been elected on less than 40 per cent of the vote!

I'm trying to imagine if the vote had been exactly reversed, whether the 'Remoaners' would be claiming it was unfair, should be rerun, they would be dictating to the other half, etc... etc?

More chance of the Pope getting married!

DR Hodges is living in a dream world if he thinks we can negotiate with them and attempt to return them to sanity. Who found difficulty even agreeing to Dilettante Dave's minor alterations! Who sat back and watched Greece crumble, steadfastly refusing to admit defeat on the Euro! Who watched the appalling problems created by Shenegen, as their indigenous populations suffered and even died for their madness!

Who ensured that GB didn't have any effect over the last 75 EU votes and was ignored on most issues, as Merkel and Hollande run the show, some democracy that DR Hodges thinks is so precious!!

Phil Granger,
 West Malling

'The UK is just the first domino'

A 'SLENDER majority, almost 50/50' in the EU referendum is a 'dictatorship' to be compared, presumably, with the European Commission of twenty eight souls, is it? I take issue with DR Hodges (Letter of the Week, 23/24 July.)

The electorate voted to leave the EU, the majority in favour was in excess of 1.27 million; or to put it another way, more than fourteen full capacity Wembley stadiums. Given that a single vote either way won the day, it wasn't even close.

The gap would have been even greater but for Remain's drip, drip Operation Fear designed to frighten us into staying. Inter alia, Fear comprised decimation of the economy, a punishment budget, our very own 'Jungle', the break up of the UK, possible world conflict and interventions by the G20, Obama, and the Bank of England. There was an unexplained two-day extension to online registration because those who were apathetic until ninety minutes before the deadline managed to crash the website.

We are not losing our friendship, trade and cooperation with our European neighbours. We are leaving the EU, a political project which has become a bureaucratic, profligate and dictatorial institution that needs toppling. The UK is just the first domino.

Malcolm Brockman,
 Loose

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Hay bales in Challock

by **Victoria Tythe,**
from **Ashford**

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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PUNKISH:
the Juke's looks
are expected to
inspire the next Micra



IT CAN BE DONE:
Nissan's Note shows
the brand can produce
good small cars



CROSSOVER KING: the Qashqai

Nissan needs Micra boost

BRAND UPDATE: Japanese marque must ensure that its next Micra supermini – arriving soon – has the style and appeal to recruit new buyers...

THERE is no doubting Nissan's prowess in the burgeoning crossover market; after all, the Japanese marque created it with the British-designed Qashqai and Juke.

But when it comes to superminis, it has slipped off the pace with the current Micra. It's well-priced and worthy, but no match even for the ageing sector leader, the Ford Fiesta.

And while there's no great profitability in building small cars, they are a brand's recruiting sergeant: get buyers into your most affordable car and they might trade up next time or become lifetime customers.

So there's much riding on the next Micra, tipped to arrive by year end, but still very much under wraps until the Paris Motor Show in October – meantime, look out for bargains on the outgoing car.

What we guess is that the new Micra will be a major re-think: the current car can trace its roots back nearly 14 years so, rather than clone a rival from an already clogged sector, expect Nissan to draw on the punkish and controversial looks of its Juke junior crossover.

The Juke polarises opinion – I hate it – but you cannot argue with its sales success, despite the alternative take.

And it could work for the Micra, which is also tipped to have a big and stylish cabin and will probably offer a lively small turbocharged petrol

OFF THE PACE?: the current Micra



engine and maybe some winners from sister brand Renault's box of powertrain tricks.

It will be surprising if Renault's supermini prowess – the current Clio is a real sector star – hasn't found its way into the Micra's development, especially as the French marque's new

found crossover success with the Captur and Kadjar could be due to Nissan's help.

Not that Nissan is small car no-hoper: the Note 'supersize' supermini impresses with its space efficiency, reliability and low running costs.

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Kia's Picanto - the 'slicker city car'

Compact, roomy and even stylish, the Kia Picanto continues to be an impressive introduction to the Korean marque's line-up, writes **Steve Loader...**

IT'S a car designer's nightmare brief – the city car. "Take four adults, wrap 'em but don't cramp 'em in a box, leave room for the motor at the front and a few bags of shopping at the back....oh, and, by the way, try to make it look stylish."

Talk about a poisoned chalice, or is that a perfect challenge for some car creators?

One of those might be German maestro Peter Schreyer, the genius behind the original Audi TT and now Kia's design guru.

He and his team took the Korean marque's original Picanto city car (2004-11) known for value and economy, a decent drive, and seemingly bulletproof reliability, and re-invented it with its own compact style and flair.

Given wheels as far into the corners of its body as possible, the Picanto wears its headroom-friendly cabin well and rides and handles better than many in this class.

The lofty cabin space is also arranged with surprising style and well-arranged, with decent seats and legroom; three adults can ride in the back over short journeys and a long trek certainly wouldn't be hard for two people travelling in the rear. The



200-litre boot is one of the biggest in this class too.

The little car can be hustled about with enthusiasm in its intended urban environment and on winding rural roads, yet cruise the motorway with respectable refinement – depending on engine choice, but more on that later.

Specifications are typically generous from Kia; standard kit includes air con, electric front windows, with height-adjustable driver's seat and tiltable steering column to get the best driving position.

All but the entry model also come with alloys, electric windows all



round and powered door mirrors too.

A choice of two low emission petrol engines effectively means two small cars in one range: if you need out and out economy then the three-cylinder 68bhp 1.0-litre entry unit has a claimed 67.3mpg (combined) at least, though it takes a leisurely 14.4 seconds to reach 62mph.

Kia Picanto 1.25 Sport ISG

Price:	from £12,595
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Skoda Citigo

On the other hand, if you need more flexibility, it has to be the 84bhp 1.25-litre four-cylinder engine as tested here.

It is relatively nippy (0-62mph in 11.4 seconds) and revs freely; however, with the crisp five-speed manual 'box there's a temptation to drive in a sporty manner that nibbles away at the official combined 60.1mpg.

Importantly, for those who want a car for all seasons and reasons though, the 1.25 is more refined on motorways than the three-pot one-litre option, even though you will pay £12,595, whether it be the auto or manual version, which is a long way from the eye-catching £8,545 for the 1.0-litre entry model.

All versions come with Kia's industry-leading seven-year/100,000-mile warranty.

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Your guide to buying your new '66 plate' car...

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ITALIAN GLAMOUR: the all-new Alfa Romeo Giulia saloon

Get your kicks with 'Plate '66'

By Steve Loader

THIS September heralds an evocative new registration plate number for car and music buffs alike – 66.

It echoes Route 66, one of the greatest motoring or cruising anthems ever written and covered by a whole string of artists, including the Rolling Stones, after making its debut with the voice of Nat King Cole in 1946.

And 'Plate 66' arrives at a time when the UK new car market is in surprisingly good health despite dire predictions about the EU referendum depressing consumer confidence, before and after the momentous vote.

The market actually grew by a steady 3.2 per cent in the first six months of the year, according to

figures released by motor industry mouthpiece, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) and the 1,420,636 new registrations was the best half-year performance ever recorded.

However, demand in June eased slightly, with a -0.8 per cent fall in registrations, meeting expectations that market growth would stabilise following a record 2015.

SMMT Chief Executive Mike Hawes said: "It is far too soon to determine whether the referendum result has had an impact on the new car market. The first six months saw strong demand at record levels but the market undoubtedly cooled over the second quarter."

■ **Check out the rest of our supplement for buying your new '66 plate' car**



FRENCH CHIC: Renault's new Megane hatch and Sport Tourer estate have style aplenty



BUTCH APPEAL: the Skoda Yeti shows why SUVs have become popular

SUPERMINI STAR:

Peugeot's classy 208 epitomises small car appeal

BABY BOOMER:

the 500 has rejuvenated the entire FIAT brand



Thinking small dominates buyers' minds

S OARING motoring costs have driven a rapid downshift in the car size we prefer.

Fuel, insurance, greater environmental awareness, and punitive road tax on larger cars, have all played their part in turning us away from the typical family car, once epitomized by those ubiquitous Fords, the Cortina, Sierra and Mondeo, and squeezing us into family hatchbacks first, and now superminis.

The supermini, and even smaller city car, account for around 40 per cent of new car sales, followed by family hatchbacks with around 25 per cent of registrations.

Even the commonality of the two-box supermini shape – dictated by the need for compact on-road

dimensions – can be addressed by ever more imaginative customization.

This might be a roof of a different colour, pattern or decal such as a flag, or it could be special wheels, bespoke door mirrors, or a wild paint job.

In short, superminis might have similar proportions, but they don't have to look alike.

They can also be fun: the short overhangs/wheel-at-each corner look lends itself to a well sorted chassis and handling so that, just like the original 1960s Mini, these small hatchbacks can handle windy roads.

With small yet powerful engines they often have the revs to match too, though sensible use of the throttle also brings good economy.



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Crossover crowd pleaser

NISSAN started it – the Japanese marque launched the original Qashqai crossover in 2007 and other carmakers rushed to catch up.

As the name implies, the type is a crowd pleaser that is part family hatchback, part people carrier/MPV, while also having a high-riding SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle) stance.

The sector has been blurred further by a resurgence of interest in SUVs too – cars offering a little more off-road and 4x4 performance.

But whether crossover or SUV, these cars are the Swiss Army Knife of the car market, able to cope with the needs of most owners who require more space than the ubiquitous super-mini and city car can offer.

Of course, like most cars these days, they can also be personalized and customized.



while the option of 4x4 on most models means that they can do some simple off-roading or deliver decent traction in awkward situations, without the real overheads of a full 4x4 off-roader.

A few, such as Peugeot's clever 2008, also offer a heavy duty traction control system on their front driving wheels, delivering the 4x4 experience at a bargain price.

Meanwhile, the cabins have been given the full MPV treatment, often with clever rear seats that fold and slide and in various combinations – you can even have seven seats on some models.

And the high stance – so good for visibility and easy access – doesn't have to come at the price of roly-poly cornering; most designs now handle as well as lower slung models – part of the original Qashqai's appeal.

VERSATILITY: the SUV/Crossover is the Swiss Army Knife of the motor market with cars like the Nissan Qashqai – a UK top 10 seller – Jeep Renegade and new MG GS



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Other options...

As you will have read earlier in this supplement, crossovers and superminis tend to dominate the thoughts of car buyers.

But not everyone can cram into a small car or wants a high-riding 'fun bus', so the family hatchback remains a popular option – the Vauxhall Astra, for instance, is the sixth best-selling car to date this year.

These cars tend to be cheap to run and the lift up tailgate or 'hatch' makes them clever load carriers – two levers is often all it takes to convert them to a small van – and they usually handle well too.

Of course, the saloon remains popular with those who want to project a classier image –

particularly with the premium brands.

But the biggest market news apart from the rise of the crossover, has been the resurgence of the estate car: once regarded as a tradesman or sales rep's favourite, the estate is seen increasingly as a lifestyle choice, suggesting that you have a country retreat and enjoy an active timetable.

Indeed, so popular have they become that many estate models outsell their saloon or hatchback counterparts.

If you are shopping for an estate though and really do need the room, check the vital statistics of boot space and overall load area, they can vary widely and some family hatchback based estates do outgun estate models from the class above.



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Qashqai Range: URBAN 372-673mpg (7.6-4.2L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 52.3-78.5mpg (5.4-3.6L/100km), COMBINED 471-74.3mpg (6.0-3.8L/100km), CO₂ emissions 138-99g/km.
 Juke Range: URBAN 297-64.2mpg (9.5-4.4L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 46.3-74.3mpg (6.1-3.8L/100km), COMBINED 38.7-70.6mpg (7.3-4.0L/100km), CO₂ emissions 172-104g/km.
 Pulsar Range: URBAN 36.7-68.9mpg (7.7-4.1L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 58.8-85.6mpg (4.8-3.3L/100km), COMBINED 47.9-78.5mpg (5.9-3.6 L/100km), CO₂ emissions 138-94g/km.
 New Micra Range: URBAN 42.2-55.4mpg (6.7-5.1L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 61.4-78mpg (4.6-3.6L/100km), COMBINED 52.3-68.9mpg (5.4-4.1L/100km), CO₂ emissions 125-95g/km.
 New Note Range: URBAN 45.6-67.3mpg (6.2-4.2L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 62.8-88.3mpg (4.5-3.2L/100km), COMBINED 55.4-78.5mpg (5.1-3.6 L/100km), CO₂ emissions 119-93g/km.
 Offer valid until 30 September 2016 at participating Dealers only and subject to vehicle availability. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands). Terms and conditions apply, please visit www.nissan-offers.co.uk/termsandconditions or your local Dealer for full details. *NISSAN DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION OF £1150 ON NOTE ACENTA IS ONLY AVAILABLE WHEN TAKEN ON 0% APR PCP NISSAN FINANCE PRODUCT (MINIMUM 25% CUSTOMER DEPOSIT). EXCLUDES LIMITED EDITION AND VIBE GRADES. **NISSAN DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION OF £1000 ON PULSAR IS ONLY AVAILABLE WHEN TAKEN ON 0% APR PCP NISSAN FINANCE PRODUCT (MINIMUM 25% DEPOSIT REQUIRED). EXCLUDES VISA GRADES. †NISSAN DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION OF £500 ON QASHQAI N-CONNECTA IS ONLY AVAILABLE WHEN TAKEN ON 0% APR PCP NISSAN FINANCE PRODUCT (MINIMUM 25% DEPOSIT REQUIRED). EXCLUDES VISA GRADES. ††NISSAN DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION OF £850 ON MICRA ACENTA IS ONLY AVAILABLE WHEN TAKEN ON 0% APR PCP NISSAN FINANCE PRODUCT (MINIMUM 25% DEPOSIT REQUIRED). EXCLUDES VISA GRADES. Model shown is Note Acenta with metallic paint at £13,875 with deposit of £4,626.00 followed by payments of £109 and optional final payment of £4,085.00. Model shown is Pulsar Acenta with metallic paint at £18,015 with deposit of £4,780.85 followed by payments of £149 and optional final payment of £6,870.15. Model shown is Juke Acenta with metallic paint at £15,810.00 with deposit of £4,484.75 followed by payments of £149 and optional final payment of £5,961.25. Model shown is Qashqai N-Connecta at £23,810 with deposit of £5,632.75 followed by payments of £229.00 and optional final payment of £9,433.25. Model shown is Micra Acenta with metallic paint at £11,670.00 with deposit of £3,958.50 followed by payments of £89.00 and optional final payment of £3,657.50. Minimum customer deposit 25%. Our dealership introduces customers to a limited number of finance providers including RCI Finance Services Ltd. We may receive a commission from the finance provider for the introduction. Juke offer based on 10,000 miles pa, excess mileage 8p per mile. Qashqai offer based on 10,000 miles pa, excess mileage 8p per mile. Pulsar offer based on 10,000 miles pa, excess mileage 8p per mile. Micra offer based on 6,000 miles pa, excess mileage 8p per mile. Note offer based on 6,000 miles pa, excess mileage 8p per mile. Offers not available in conjunction with any schemes or other offers. Vehicle price includes first registration fee and 12 months' road fund licence. Always drive carefully and attentively. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing in accordance with 2004/5/EC and intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results. (Optional equipment, maintenance, driving behaviour, road and weather conditions may affect the official results.) Information correct at time of going to print. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

Go eco - economical and ecological

It's good to choose cars that are eco-friendly, but savvy drivers know that going green also saves money.

Many new models not only help to offset ever-rising fuel bills, but also lower or even remove road tax bills altogether. The latest tax bandings range from zero for cars with the lowest CO₂ emissions (below 100g/km) right up to £1,065 a year for gas guzzling limos or 4x4s.

Naturally, anyone spending £50,000-100,000 on a car won't worry about small change like that, but most of us like saving on fuel and tax while also doing our bit for the environment.

Longer term, electric cars may be the answer because they are quiet, cheap to fuel and emission free at the point of use, but battery technology must catch up and the emissions argument for electric is misleading. Until we have zero emission power stations, electric cars simply transfer the CO₂ and noxious gas output from exhaust pipe to belching chimney. Production of hydrogen to power our cars raises a similar dilemma.

Are hybrids the answer then? Well, they tend to be dearer upfront, but the savings in running costs and tax can be significant, particularly for company car drivers.

On the other hand, conventional



internal combustion engine running costs and emissions are falling while efficiency increases.

In fact, things are moving so fast that you marvel at what Government prodding has achieved.

Most carmakers now have an eco sub-brand, but weigh potential

long-term savings against upfront cost - if you don't cover enough miles to make the fuel savings offset the eco car's purchase price, conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol cars either; the higher price of diesels and the fuel at

the pumps must be compared with new small capacity low emission/consumption yet lively turbocharged petrol engines. And if you are considering a supermini or family hatchback, it's probably best to avoid diesel completely unless covering 'galactic' mileages.



GREENING IT: the economic advantages of small cars such as the Kia Picanto and FIAT Panda are obvious, though hybrids like the classy Lexus NX300h offer big tax savings for company car drivers



ALFA ROMEO. TURNING HEADS SINCE 1910.

The highly specced **New Alfa MiTo Junior** shares its heritage with the classic 1966 GT 1300 Junior. Available for just £179 per month*, with a £2,000 Alfa Deposit Contribution* and a Customer Deposit of £2,224*. **Book a test drive today.**

Alfa MiTo 875cc TB TwinAir 105 hp Junior incl. Special Paint at £475

Representative Example

On the Road Price*	£15,635	Customer Deposit	£2,224	Monthly Payments	£179	Total Amount Payable by Customer	£14,618	Rate of Interest (Fixed)	3.18%
Alfa Deposit Contribution	£2,000	Amount of Credit	£11,411	Optional Final Payment (inc. £10 fee)	£3,981	Duration of Contract (months)	48	Representative	3.2% APR

NORTHGATE CANTERBURY 1 WESTMINSTER ROAD, CANTERBURY, KENT CT1 1YY.
TEL: 01227 208660 WWW.NORTHGATE-GROUP.CO.UK

La meccanica delle emozioni



Model shown: Alfa MiTo 875cc TB TwinAir 105 hp Junior at £15,635 OTR incl. Special Paint at £475. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa MiTo range: Urban 38.7 - 64.2 mpg (7.3 - 4.4 l/100km); Extra Urban 61.4 - 97.4 mpg (4.6 - 2.9 l/100km); Combined 50.4 - 80.7 mpg (5.6 - 3.5 l/100km). CO₂ emissions 130 - 90 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. *Promotion available on Alfa MiTo models registered between 4th May and 31st July 2016. †Alfa Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Alfa Romeo Preferenza PCR. With Alfa Romeo Preferenza you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. At participating Dealers only. Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO BOX 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors including Alfa Romeo Financial Services.



PUT THEM TO THE TEST: The sporty Alfa Romeo Giulietta maybe? Or the roomy crossover appeal of the Kia Sportage? Or do you need even more space and seven seats, as in the Nissan X-Trail?



A testing time

BUYERS' attitudes to trying before buying range from obsession to indifference, but please test drive before signing paperwork.

We say:

Book early - New Reg is a busy time for dealers, so map out a test schedule, driving each candidate soon after another for more accurate comparisons. It helps that many dealers are grouped at 'motor city' sites like Broad Oak at Canterbury, Ashford's Orbital Park and Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells, allowing easy shuttling from one dealer to the next.

Don't be hurried - insist on time to test the car in town traffic, on the motorway or a high speed road and on less well-maintained rural roads.

What are you looking for?

Experience of different road surfaces, highlighting seating and ride comfort issues, plus engine, wind, tyre and mechanical noise. And especially...

Do you like the controls? It used to be easy to find your way around dashboards, but most carmakers are now going their own way in search of the best human interaction, but they actually don't suit everyone. Touchscreens for sounds and sat nav and electronic handbrakes are just two possible bugbears.



Is it the right spec? Try to get a test car as close to the one you are interested in, even if you have to wait a few days extra or go to another dealership.

Make it a family outing - it can be a painful process of 'are we there yet?' proportions, but try to involve as many of the would-be car users - drivers and non-drivers. This can answer questions about comfort and visibility in the rear and, specifically, is there really room for three across the back seat, especially if one place

has to take a strap-in child seat or booster? Also, can you lift shopping in and out of the boot easily or indeed, is there much of a boot?

Don't feel pressured - whether you have one or several candidates to check out. Always go away and weigh your thoughts; maybe leave the salesman with a reason to be cheerful by asking whether it would be OK to come back later for another test drive. If the reaction is not good then you've learned something there too!

AGE, TAKE A HIKE.

Legends don't come much younger than the Jeep Renegade. But whilst Jeep are celebrating 75 years of 4x4 glory, the Renegade climbed its way to the top fast, Crowned 4x4 of the year 2016 by 4x4 magazine. Available with bronze styling and a choice of four colours including Jungle Green, the 75th anniversary edition also features My Sky® open air roof, touchscreen infotainment & navigation system and over 60 safety features. Forget the cake, let's hit the road.

JEEP RENEGADE 75TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

£175

Per month

£1,750

Jeep Deposit Contribution

0% APR

Representative

Call us today to arrange a test drive:

Northgate Canterbury, 1 Westminster Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YY.

Tel: 01227 208660 www.northgate-group.co.uk



Jeep

Model shown is the Jeep Renegade 2.0 Multijet II 140hp 4WD 75th Anniversary (Incl £700 Special Paint) at OTR £27,495. OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR JEEP RENEGADE RANGE MPG (L/100KM): EXTRA URBAN 47.9 (5.9) - 70.6 (4.0), URBAN 32.5 (8.7) - 55.4 (5.1), COMBINED 40.9 (6.9) - 64.2 (4.4), CO₂ EMISSIONS: 160 - 115 G/KM. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. *Customer deposit is £8,461. Optional Final Payment is £13,260. Contract Term is 24 months. Promotion available on new Renegade 75th Anniversary editions registered between 4th May 2016 and 31st July 2016. Jeep Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Jeep Horizon PCP. With Jeep Horizon you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 10,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. At participating Dealers only. Jeep Financial Services, PO BOX 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors including Jeep Financial Services. Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.



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All-New Renault MEGANE

Feel the drive



All-New MEGANE GT Nav dCi 110

3.99% APR | £1,750 deposit
representative contribution*

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the car shown are: urban 68.9 (4.1); extra-urban 80.7 (3.5); combined 76.4 (3.7). The official CO₂ emissions are 96g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

Finance provided by Renault Finance, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Indemnities may be required. UK residents (excluding the Channel Islands). Over 18s. Terms and conditions apply. Offer based on 6,000 miles per annum, excess mileage 8p per mile inc VAT. Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on featured new vehicle when ordered by 30 September 2016 and registered by 31 December 2016. Car shown with optional metallic paint at an extra £525. *Deposit contribution shown is available when taking out finance on an All-New Renault MEGANE GT Nav dCi 110 with Renault Finance.

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Maidstone ME15 9XY
Tel 01622 616422

MOTORLINE CANTERBURY

Westminster Road
Canterbury CT1 1YY
Tel 01227 389706

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Hilton Road
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Tel 01233 215630

www.motorline.co.uk/renault

Book a test-drive

Renault CLIO

Be moved, not driven



RENAULT
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Renault CLIO Dynamique Nav 1.2 16V 75

0% APR | From £175 | £1,000 deposit
representative per month* contribution**



Renault CAPTUR Dynamique Nav TCe 90

0% APR | From £199 | £750 deposit
per month* contribution**



All-New Renault KADJAR
Dynamique Nav TCe 130

3.99% APR | £1,250 deposit
contribution**

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 39.2 (7.2)–47.1 (6); extra-urban 60.1 (4.7)–62.8 (4.5); combined 51.4 (5.5)–55.4 (5.1). The official CO₂ emissions are 127–114g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary with driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

*Clio monthly payment based on £2,316 deposit, 24 monthly payments of £175, optional final payment of £6,160. Captur monthly payment based on £2,486 deposit, 24 monthly payments of £199, optional final payment of £7,663. Finance provided by Renault Finance, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Indemnities may be required. UK residents only (excluding the Channel Islands). Over 18s. Terms and conditions apply. Offer based on 6,000 miles per annum, excess mileage 8p per mile inc VAT. Finance available on selected new vehicles when ordered by 30 September 2016 and registered by 31 December 2016. Excludes Renaultsport and Expression models. Clio shown has optional i.d. metallic paint, at an extra £595. Captur shown with metallic i.d. paint and painted roof, at an extra £894. All-New Renault KADJAR shown has optional Flame Red Renault i.d. metallic paint, available at £625. **Deposit contributions shown are available when taking Renault Finance on a new Renault Clio Dynamique Nav 1.2 16V 75, Renault Captur Dynamique Nav TCe 90 or All-New Renault KADJAR Dynamique Nav TCe 130.

MOTORLINE MAIDSTONE

Bircholt Road, Parkwood
Maidstone ME15 9XY
Tel 01622 616422

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Westminster Road
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MOTORLINE ASHFORD

Hilton Road
Ashford TN23 1EW
Tel 01233 215630

www.motorline.co.uk/renault

Book a test-drive

Before buying a new car...

GENEROUS KIT: the Jeep Grand Cherokee comes with a high spec

DO

- Ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts or extras.
- Pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it isn't getting any easier out there. The Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) is now the nation's favourite way to acquire a new car because the driver knows what he has to budget for – the best is Peugeot's Just Add Fuel, which means just that.
- Tread carefully with 'eco' models: check price, running costs, green credentials and savings on planned mileage versus years of ownership, then compare the closest standard version. The latter's overall savings might surprise you.
- Make the most of your part exchange. Assuming you are not trading in a banger that the dealer will simply pack off to the nearest auction, it pays to make the most of your old car. Clean and polish it and replace obvious missing items such as a wheel cover or badge; don't give the salesman an excuse to mark its value down. And make sure all the paperwork and history is neatly packaged up to go with the car; be critical of your old motor and put right what you can without spending big.

DON'T

- Accept the first deal on offer – be ready to haggle.
- Fall for what seems like a big bargain before you even haggle. It could be an unpopular engine/trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago. It might depreciate badly.
- Assume a diesel will save: you usually pay more upfront for diesel power, so you must cover more miles to claw that money back in fuel economy. And the engines are generally heavier, causing more wear on front tyres and mechanicals. We also know that diesel emissions are finally being called into question, while the economy and emissions on small petrol cars have improved dramatically and they are often nicer to drive. In short – do your sums.



DIESEL V. PETROL: Left, both options appeal on the Renault Captur, **4x4 WITHOUT OVERHEADS:** GripControl on the Peugeot 2008 gives you off-road traction at a bargain price



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LEXUS IS SPORT
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IS 300h Sport

FROM **107** G/KM CO₂
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FROM **18%** BIK

THE STRIKING LEXUS NX

NX 300h F SPORT		Customer deposit	£7,603.11
Term	36 Months	Amount of credit	£28,536.89
35 Monthly payments	£369.00	Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment	£19,822.50
Cash price	£38,140.00	Total amount payable	£42,340.61
Centre Deposit Contribution	£500.00	Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	4.91%
Finance Deposit Contribution	£1,500.00	Representative	5.9% APR*

Representative Example

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE LEXUS HYBRID RANGE BY VISITING YOUR NEAREST LEXUS CENTRE BELOW.



LEXUS CANTERBURY

Broad Oak Road, Canterbury CT2 7PX. Tel: **01227 388 585**
www.lexus.co.uk/canterbury

LEXUS TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Dowding Way, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3UY. Tel: **01892 598 870**
www.lexus.co.uk/tunbridgewells

The MPG figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. They are provided for comparability purposes, and may not reflect actual driving experience. IS 300h SPORT fuel consumption and CO₂ figures: urban 60.1 mpg (4.7 l/100km), extra-urban 58.9 mpg (4.8 l/100km), combined 61.4 mpg (4.6 l/100km), 107 g/km CO₂ (18% BIK). NX 300h F SPORT fuel consumption and CO₂ figures: urban 53.3 mpg (5.3 l/100km), extra-urban 55.4 mpg (5.1 l/100km), combined 54.3 mpg (5.2 l/100km), 121 g/km CO₂ (21% BIK) mpg (5.2 l/100km), 121 g/km CO₂ (21% BIK)

NX 300h prices start from £29,995. Model shown is NX 300h F SPORT £38,140, including optional metallic paint at £645, *5.9% APR Representative, £1,500 Finance Deposit Allowance and £500 Centre contribution 24-42 months only on Lexus Connect (PCP), up to 35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. NX new retail sales. Ordered and proposed for finance between 1 July 2016 and 30 September 2016, registered and financed by 31 December 2016 through Lexus Financial Services. IS 300h prices start from £29,995. Model shown is IS 300h Sport £30,605, including option metallic paint at £610, *0% APR Representative 24 months only on Lexus Connect (PCP), up to 35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. IS new retail sales. Ordered and proposed for finance between 1 July 2016 and 30 September 2016, registered and financed by 31 December 2016 through Lexus Financial Services. *Payment shown is based on a 24-month Lexus Connect contract with £7,599.25 customer deposit and guaranteed future value/optional final payment. Participating Lexus Centres. Other finance offers available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. 8,000 miles per annum, excess mileage charge applies over contracted miles, 9 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status, over 18s. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Lexus Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC. Registered Office: Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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Motorline ŠKODA Medway
26 Hoath Lane,
Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0SW
 0843 658 9764
 www.motorline.co.uk/skoda

#At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) own the vehicle: pay the optional final payment; ii) return the vehicle: subject to fair wear and tear, excess mileage charges may apply; or iii) replace: part exchange the vehicle.

Available on a Solutions Personal Contract Plan, 18s and over. Subject to availability. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Excludes ŠKODA Citigo S trims, SE Business trims, SE Technology trims, ŠKODA Yeti Monte Carlo and all ŠKODA Superb models. Offer available when ordered by 30 September 2016 from participating retailers. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Accurate at time of publication. Freepost ŠKODA Financial Services. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders to assist with your purchase, who may pay us for introducing you to them. *No cash alternative. Private retail customers only. Available in conjunction with existing finance offers. £500 free fuel must be claimed within 3 months of vehicle handover. Free fuel offer terms and conditions apply, see skodafreefuel.co.uk for full details. Offer available for new cars ordered between 19 July and 30 September 2016 inclusive from participating retailers. Models shown, from left to right: ŠKODA Citigo Colour Edition 5 dr 1.0 MPI 60PS, ŠKODA Fabia Hatch Colour Edition 1.0 MPI 75PS, ŠKODA Octavia Hatch vRS 2.0 TSI 220PS and ŠKODA Yeti Outdoor SE L 1.2 TSI 110PS.

Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range pictured above in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 36.7 (7.7) to 50.4 (5.6); Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) to 72.4 (3.9); Combined 45.6 (6.2) to 62.8 (4.5). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA range pictured above are 142 to 108g/km. Standard EU test figures are for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.



Bradstow School

Living and learning together within a culture of gentleness

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

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Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends being a student's Keyworker and some management responsibility.
£22,442 - £25,416 pa - 41 hours per week. All year round.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – Residential Care

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people in the residential home mornings, evenings and weekends. These roles are aimed at candidates with some experience of Care work.

£14,338 - £15,207 plus 10% pa - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks* or £5,246 - £5,564 – 15 hours per week, Weekends only – Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

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As part of the childcare teams, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends. No experience required, full training will be given.

£11,752 - £12,085 plus 10% pa – 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends – more hours available) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks* or 15 hours per week part-time pro-rata.

FLEXIBANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

We have some additional opportunities to provide additional cover within either the classrooms or residences on an ad-hoc hourly paid basis, up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends.
Please contact us for further details.

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is midnight Thursday 2nd September 2016.

Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

Staff Nurses x 3

To cover our Ashford and Canterbury sites

Full time 37.5 hours per week Closing date 12/08/2016

Salary: £23-25,000 per annum dependant on qualifications and experience

Qualifications and Experience

- Registered Nurse 1st level
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

To discuss these opportunities, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Gail Cribbens, Nurse Manager on 01233 651818

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Jo Wright, Senior HR Advisor

Telephone: 01304 222687

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

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AGY

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Police and Crime Commissioner Election – Kent Police Area

5 May 2016

Returns as to Election Expenses

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 of Part 3 of The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012 that I have received returns as to election expenses as follows:

Name of Candidate	Name of Election Agent
BOLTON Henry	MCKENNA Frank
NAGHI David Sandru	WHITBURN Nigel Philip
OSBORNE Tristan John	MURRAY Teresa Margaret
SANDHER Gurvinder Singh	SHARMA Dev
SCOTT Matthew Richard	MACKNESS Andrew
UNCLES Steve	RUSSELL Michael

A copy of the returns, declarations and any accompanying documents are available for public inspection at Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ during normal office hours for a period of two years beginning with the date when the return was received by me. Copies of the returns, declarations and accompanying documents are available on payment of the prescribed fee of 15 pence for each side of each page.

For enquiries in connection with this notice please email elections@dover.gov.uk or telephone 01304 872344

Nadeem Aziz, Police Area Returning Officer, Kent Police Area, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ
Dated: **18 July 2016**

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE

ADDRESS OF PREMISES

Ashford Club, First floor, 2-6 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TD.

TAKE NOTICE that WKM Leisure Ltd of Ashford Club, First floor, 2-6 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TD hereby give notice that we have applied to the Ashford Borough Council under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to renew a licence to use the premises referred to above as a sexual entertainment venue.

REPRESENTATIONS

Any person who wishes to make representations about the application should make them in writing and send them to Licensing, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL or Email licensing@ashford.gov.uk quoting reference LN/020120163. Representations must be received by 15 August 2016

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

An application has been made by: J Nemanee for the premises, for Loose Post office, Old Loose Hill, Maidstone, ME15 0AA On the date of: 28/07/2016
Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening:

Mon to Friday 07.00 to 19.00 Hours

Saturday 07.00 to 18.00 Hrs

Sunday 07.00 to 13.00 hrs

Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004

Any person wishing to make representation about the application should make them in writing on or before the : Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk <http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing>

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5,000.

Notice of an Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence (Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that Nooragha Noori has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the GRANT of PREMISES LICENCE for Refreshments for the premises Ashford Pizza and Kebab House situated at 13 High Street, Ashford, Kent.

A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.

Any Person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by: 15th August 2016

The Council will not entertain any representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the Public Domain.

Representations must relate to one or more of the Four Licensing Objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine of up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

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Learning curve for Wainwright

Promising Sidcup rider now looking forward to Brands Hatch

Motorsport

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

SIDCUP rider Josh Wainwright says he is learning with every race as he gathers momentum in the British Superbike Championship.

Starting 29th out of 32 on the grid at last weekend's meeting at Thruxton, Wainwright came 19th in race one, which was called to a halt due to Stuart Easton's bike setting alight.

In race two, he finished a respectable 24th in only his third outing on the PR Racing BMW bike.

He told us: "I feel I'm learning and improving week-on-week and I get a new lease of life every time I get on the bike so I'm feeling more and more at home."

"It's been a steep learning curve because I've never ridden a BMW before, and I've had to get to know the team but it's been great so far and I'm ready for anything that comes my way."

"I want to take everything on board, continue to improve, and by the end of the season I want to be pushing for points because I'm not just here to make up the numbers."

Many riders seem to have a favoured track, and Wainwright says he is no different.

"I've enjoyed racing at Cadwell Park up in Lincolnshire," he said.

"But we're back at Brands Hatch soon [August 5-7] and that always gives you extra motivation on your home circuit in front of all your friends and family so I'm really looking forward to that."

Michael Laverty was victorious in



IMPROVEMENT: Sidcup's Josh Wainwright

Pictures: CAMIPIX

Hampshire after Sheppey's Shane 'Shakey' Byrne was forced to retire with a broken gear lever.

However, Byrne admitted returning to familiar surroundings at Brands was one he was something he was also looking forward to.

"I love the place to ride and I cer-

tainly love my bike at the minute," he said.

"We have to keep our heads down though, to concentrate and to work as hard as ever."

"The season is getting close to a crucial point now so podium points and wins are top of my agenda."

Gillingham learn inaugural EFL Trophy fate

Football

GILLINGHAM have learned who they will face in the inaugural EFL Trophy when it kicks off next month.

Club chairman Paul Scally was one of a number of senior officials to slam the new-look competition, which invites Premier League 'B' sides into the tournament formerly known as the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

Following the draw this week, the Gills will face West Bromwich Albion's Academy, Millwall and Luton Town in the group stage of the EFL Trophy.

Justin Edinburgh's team will travel to the Hawthorns to face West Brom's Academy in the week commencing Monday, November 7.



GILLS: Club face tough draw

with Gills hosting Luton Town in the week of August 29 and away at Millwall in October

in the other two group games.

A total of 64 clubs will compete in the competition, beginning with 16 groups of four teams, each of which will include at least one club from each of Leagues One and Two, along with one invited team. Teams will play each other once, either home or away, and the top two sides from each group will then go into a knock-out stage.

The trophy will be presented to the winner in a showpiece final at Wembley Stadium on April 2.

Meanwhile, Josh Wright was this week named as club captain, with goalkeeper Stuart Nelson handed vice-captaincy.

Wright said: "I can't wait to lead this fantastic club and group of players next season, and hopefully beyond."

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

Cricket Week to go off in style in Canterbury

SPORTS fans across the county will be gearing up for one of the highlights of the Kentish calendar as the 165th Canterbury Cricket Week kicks off today (Sunday) at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence.

Following on from their clash with Surrey on Friday night, Kent Spitfires take on Gloucestershire in the Royal London One-Day Cup, featuring a display from the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust.

The Spitfires were victorious over Hampshire in the One-Day Cup in the week, and batsman Joe Denly said afterwards: "The bowlers were fantastic and they only got a reasonable total with that short boundary on a good wicket."

"It was a good chase, me and Deebes had a good partnership but that last half an hour was disappointing but it was a comprehensive victory nonetheless."

The County Championship match against Worcestershire starts on Wednesday at 12pm, with Kent captain Sam Northeast laying a wreath for the fallen during the tea interval on day one.



BATSMAN: Joe Denly



HOME: Maidstone's Gallagher Stadium

Supporters raise £17k for stand at Gallagher

AS THEY prepare for life in the National League next season, Maidstone United have raised some £17,000 to improve the Gallagher Stadium.

A campaign was launched last month, where the club encouraged donations from supporters for the development of a new terraced stand that will be built at the north end of the ground.

The club introduced a 'pay what you like' policy for last week's friendly with Concord Rangers and more than £3,000 was made on the turnstiles, with all proceeds going towards the stand development.

Stones chief executive Bill Williams said: "Hopefully they'll come back during the season and enjoy some matches in the National League."

Olympic hopefuls fly out to Rio

THE county's Olympic hopefuls flew out to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil yesterday (Saturday).

On the track, the likes of Dartford's Adam Gemili and Dina Asher-Smith of Orpington warmed up for the Games last weekend with an impressive showing at the Anniversary Games in London.

There are also county representatives in race walking, rowing,

windsurfing, hockey and trampolining with organisers hoping the event will not be overshadowed by a doping scandal.

Team GB have set a target of bringing home a minimum of 48 medals, having won a total of 65 gold, silver and bronze on home soil four years ago.

For our full Olympic preview, see pages 19-23 of this week's paper.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:



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